





## HOME NEWS

**'Think tank' report may affect car industry strategy**

By Peter Hennessy

The Central Policy Review Staff, the Government's "think tank", will present a confidential report on the long-term prospects of the British motor industry to the Cabinet in October.

Its recommendations might affect the Government's strategy for the industry implemented through its majority shareholding in British Leyland and future planning agreements with Ford, Chrysler and Vauxhall.

The report will suggest how British manufacturers might benefit by adopting the best practices of their international rivals in marketing, research and development. It will also analyse the range of models required to keep a motor manufacturer competitive in world markets.

The Government is known to be highly concerned about the

competitiveness of British motor manufacturers whose continued survival it regards as vital to the nation's industrial standing. In the House of Commons last week, Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, urged motorists to buy British cars whenever possible.

At the time of the Government's takeover of British Leyland in April, the Prime Minister said that a million jobs were at stake and the future had to remain in the world-league with a British-owned automobile industry.

The review staff began its study in earnest after the publication of the Ryder report on British Leyland in April. Its report, which is expected to be more than 20,000 words, will attempt to forecast the size and shape of the motor industry in the Western world in the mid-1980s and Britain's potential share of it.

**Emergency debate sought on Scottish devolution leak**

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh  
Mr. Tam Dalyell, chairman of the Scottish group of Labour MPs and vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, is to demand an emergency debate over disclosures that Scotland is to be allowed a maximum degree of devolution, with absolute control over the £4,000m annual budget and some tax-raising powers residing in the Scottish Assembly.

There has clearly been a government leak on the Assembly question, and Mr. Dalyell understands that the Government is going to support the "maximum devolution" line.

Mr. Dalyell favours devolution for Scotland through greater powers being given to the regional councils. He said the prescription now favoured by the Government would spell

the breakup of the United Kingdom.

A Scottish Cabinet system and Prime Minister would conflict with Westminster. He plans to raise the matter in the Commons under emergency procedure.

The devolution proposals are due to be presented in a White Paper in October. The leaked proposals give the Scottish Assembly senate-style committees able to draw up legislation.

But the Secretary of State for Scotland would remain in the Cabinet with the Scottish Development Agency under his control, initially at least.

"If this is the way the Government are seriously thinking, the consequences will be bad," Mr. Dalyell said. "The Scottish Assembly with this degree of control could blame the inevitable failures which will come on its lack of power."

"The appetite for more power will grow until Scotland becomes a separate nation."

**Mr Wilson's involvement in travel affair**

Continued from page 1

he had not been given sufficient information.

On June 26, Mr. Benn delivered his prepared statement to the Commons. It was a prepared answer to a possible supplementary question, not in the event required, was to have indicated that "people's prospects of getting their holidays have been already improved by the Government's action (that of being ready to nationalise the shipyard interests)."

The Commons was not told that three days before the debate had been the provisional agreement for a £10m takeover, which required Cabinet approval. The cost and terms were not to be disclosed to MPs until July 1 when a government statement said Court Line had agreed to the arrangements which, it was confirmed, safeguarded its holiday operations.

All Mr. Benn's statements, the Government will argue on Wednesday, were "on behalf of and with the authority of the Government." That is why it disagrees with the criticisms levelled by the Opposition.

Mr. Heseltine, Opposition spokesman on industrial affairs, accused the Government yesterday of "an orgy of deception." Independent umpires were deceived, he said, for now it emerged that they were denied what the Commons was told they received, full access to the books.

The Department of Trade said yesterday that Mr. Shore's statement last week was "accurate" because the Parliamentary Commissioners Act did not empower him to examine proceedings of the Cabinet or documents of Cabinet committees.

The Cabinet Office said that

**Firms gave Tories £895,108 in 1974**

By Our Political Staff

Cash gifts by 412 companies to the Conservative Party and other political organisations in 1974, totalled £1,598,836, according to a survey carried out by the Labour Research Department, an independent trade union bureau.

It is published in this month's issue of the department's magazine, *Labour Research*, which says that because of the Labour Government's 1967 amendment to the Companies Act, it had been able to extract information on political donations from companies' annual reports.

The Conservative Party received £895,108; British United Industrialists £557,025; Aims of Industry £129,938; and the Liberal Party and other organisations £16,765.

The largest gifts to the Conservatives came from City institutions: 61 banks, finance houses, insurance companies and investment trusts gave a total of £451,315. The largest single contributor to the party was Newchill, a building firm, which gave £43,540. It was followed by the Rank Organisation with £40,000, and Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds with £35,730. The total figure of £1,598,836 compares with £810,136 the party and the two organisations received in 1973.

The biggest individual gift was £62,500 from Commercial Union Assurance to British United Industrialists, an organisation "wrapped in mystery", according to the magazine.

The magazine dissolved itself as a limited company in 1968, following the new requirement to disclose political donations, and its accounts are thus not publicly available, the bureau says.

The Conservative Party said yesterday that 1974, a year in which two general elections were held, was bound to have been an exceptional year for donations.

"But the situation is now that we simply have not got any money. Our funds are desperate. We are trying to make considerable savings in all sorts of ways, and we have an appeal running at the moment," the party said.

The Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs has denied writing the letter. It is believed that the Trotskyites elements are expected to fight to get the resolution through constituency meetings.

The letters are not being sent to constituency secretaries or other officials but a copy has been sent to the party.

A Labour Party official yesterday declined to speculate on the letter's authenticity, but said that the style and language were familiar. There was no reason to believe that it was a forgery, he added.

In an article in the Sunday Times yesterday, Sir Alan said: "I applied for the documents which appeared to be relevant to my investigation. I wanted to see everything I could possibly see relevant to it."

Commons "not misled": In a statement last night Mr. Shore said: "The House of Commons was not misled: nor could it have been." (The Press Association reports.)

Mr. Heseltine, Opposition spokesman on industrial affairs, said that the PCA itself reports. Cabinet papers are specifically reserved under Section 8 (4) of the PCA Act and have never been provided in any previous inquiry.

**Prison population 'near danger level'**

Continued from page 1

diverting money from the prison budget to probation and after-care.

He points out that Britain has proportionately the highest prison population of any country in Western Europe, except West Germany. Other countries manage to preserve law and order without such high numbers in custody, so why should not we?

The association calls for a "dynamic and imaginative policy of penal reform" having regard to victim as well as offender, and backed up by positive proposals for crime prevention. It appeals to Mr. Kilroy-Silk to focus attention on the issue, particularly during the

rest of the summer, when the prison population will be rising but Parliament will be in recess.

Mr. Mathieson said yesterday that he thought the proposal likely to cause controversy was the suggestion that the offence of indecent exposure should be taken out of the criminal category. The association envisaged that people stopped by the police for such offences should be taken to centres where they could be treated, rather than punished.

Parole moves: Moves to increase the chances of parole being granted are predicted in *Frontline*, published by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of

Offenders (our Home Office Correspondent writes).

Mr. Jenkins has promised to study the association's proposals that for all prisoners serving sentences up to and including three years, release under supervision on licence should be automatic, after serving, say, three months.

Reef protest continues: A plan to starve four protesting prisoners into surrender from the maximum security jail, Isle of Wight, failed yesterday.

The prisoners in neighbouring a wing climbed on their own roof and flung a sack of food and drink across the barbed wire barricade erected to stop such smuggling.

**Shotguns used to kill seals**

From Our Correspondent

Lynce  
Thirty common seal pups have been killed with shotguns on Scroby Sands, off Great Yarmouth, naturalists reported yesterday.

Great Yarmouth subaquea club is running patrols for the RSPCA and naturalist organisations in an attempt to catch the gunmen.

**Mining subsidence threat to electricity supplies**

From Ronald Kershaw

Barnsley  
A full inquiry into the effects and dangers of mining subsidence on electricity supply is being sought by Mr. Roy Mason, MP for Barnsley, and Secretary of State for Defence.

He heard representations on Saturday from Barnsley residents who complained that electric cookers, refrigerators, tape recorders, and television sets were damaged by a faulty supply cable because of mining subsidence.

Mr. Mason said last night: "A matter of concern is that if hospitals in the area might be affected by sudden changes in the electricity supply, the lives of patients may well be at risk."

The trouble started in April



Spectators watching yachts racing at Cowes, Isle of Wight, yesterday. In the background are, left, the royal yacht Britannia and, right, the Italian Navy's training vessel, Amerigo Vespucci. Report, page 9.

**Trotskyites sent letter on wrecking, MPs say**

By Our Political Staff

MPs yesterday said they were convinced that an anonymous letter instructing constituency Labour parties on how to wreck the Government's anti-inflation policy had been written by Trotskyites within the Young Socialist movement.

The letter contains a resolution which recipients are instructed to try to get passed at constituency meetings. The letter says that the imposition of the 5% pay curb is one more instance of the Government's abandonment of its manifesto commitments and its rejection of the will of the party conference.

The Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs has denied writing the letter. It is believed that the Trotskyites elements are expected to fight to get the resolution through constituency meetings.

The letters are not being sent to constituency secretaries or other officials but a copy has been sent to the party.

A Labour Party official yesterday declined to speculate on the letter's authenticity, but said that the style and language were familiar. There was no reason to believe that it was a forgery, he added.

**Talks today in effort to end union's dispute**

By Our Labour Staff

Representatives of more than 90 full-time officials of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs will meet the union's national executive committee today in an effort to settle a dispute over the dismissal of Miss Judy Carter, a trainee officer.

The officers went on strike after Miss Carter had had her contract terminated on the ground of "unsuitability". They maintained that she had not been given a proper opportunity to answer the complaints made against her.

The executive committee met on Friday night and endorsed the action of Mr. Clive Jenkins, the union's general secretary. It offered either to publish the full facts of the case or to refer the dispute to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Jenkins suggested yesterday that the official said that the dispute was an internal matter and should be settled as such.

"Observer" redundancies: The board of *The Observer* will decide today whether to issue compulsory redundancy notices to staff members in view of the fact it says is a disappointing response from unions to requests to reduce manpower by 30 per cent to save costs. All employees have been told that unless voluntary cuts are made, the newspaper's cash flow will end in about five weeks.

The three main printing unions, the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, the National Graphical Association and the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, have put forward counter-proposals.

**Upsurge of violence in Ulster**

From Stewart Tindler

Belfast  
Mr. Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, meets security advisers today, including the new Army Col. Lieutenant-General Sir David House, against a background of increased attacks on troops, police and civilians and fresh "loyalist" criticism of his policy of releasing republican detainees.

Members of the United Ulster Loyalist coalition will meet today and tomorrow to examine the general situation and there is little doubt that they will again voice their criticism of government policy on security.

A meeting between the coalition and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, due to be held today, has been cancelled. The reason given was to enable the SDLP to have time to draw up discussion points.

A former member of the Ulster Defence Regiment died early yesterday after being ambushed while walking home with his wife from a public house. At Mr. George McCall, aged 22, lay dying in a country road near his home at Moy, Co. Tyrone. Mr. Sandra McCall standing over him. She was

pushed away by the man, who again shot Mr. McCall.

The gunmen were armed with Armalite and 30.1 rifles and had white handkerchiefs over their faces. They escaped over fields to a river.

Mr. McCall, a Protestant, left the UDR two years ago. He worked as a foreman and the couple had one daughter aged three.

The incident took the death toll in the past eight days to nine. On Saturday, Mr. Joseph Toland, aged 74, was killed when a mini-bus carrying Roman Catholic pensioners was ambushed while returning from a bingo session at Rabbistown, Co. Down.

Rifles and a sub-machinegun were fired at the vehicle as it slowed to take a corner on the way to Ballycroy, Co. Armagh. The driver and another passenger were severely injured.

The vehicle resembles one used by RUC officers to drive each week to Gifford, Co. Down. It had passed the point of ambush by the time the pensioners' bus came along. The RUC said they thought the attack was carried out by a republican group who shot at the wrong bus.

They said the weapons used were usually used by IRA extremists, but that Protestant

IRA denied responsibility for the attack and blamed Protestant extremists.

Yesterday two ambushes on security forces were attempted. An RUC patrol at Strabane, Co. Tyrone, went to investigate reports of a woman screaming. The woman was a decoy and when the patrol arrived 14 shots were fired at them through night vision goggles.

A vehicle checkpoint operated by men from the 15th, 19th and 20th Royal Ulster Rifles was attacked at Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone. Between 30 and 40 shots were fired at the soldiers and an explosive device was found later.

Littlejohn, returned: The self-styled British spy, Kenneth Littlejohn, aged 31, was under close guard in Dublin yesterday after being taken from Britain in a secret operation by Special Branch detectives (the Press Association reports).

The convicted bank robber, who was on the run for more than one year after escaping from Mountjoy jail in Dublin, was back in a cell in Dublin's Bridewell police station just 24 hours after losing his appeal in London against extradition.

He was brought from Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, on a regular Aer Lingus flight. Mr. Littlejohn, who was serving a 30-year sentence, faces jail-breaking charges.

**Crime rate blamed on media publicity**

Most people think there would be less crime if it featured less on television and in films, newspapers and books, according to a Home Office survey yesterday. Seventy per cent of almost 3,000 people questioned by researchers blamed the amount of crime

on the media. The survey, published in the *British Journal of Criminology*, showed that more than 70 per cent of those questioned thought the main reason for crime were get-rich-quick attitudes, the lure of something for nothing, lack of parental control and too many crooks getting away with it.

The opinions of men and women were similar, but there were differences between young and old. Those over 50 tended to blame crime on a lack of parental control and school authority and the decline in religion.

Questioned about the seriousness of crime, nearly all put murder, robbery with violence,

sex offences against children, cruelty to children, indecently assaulting a woman, and causing death by dangerous driving at the top of the list.

Less than a third thought fighting, taking a motor vehicle without consent, being drunk and disorderly, stealing by finding, travelling without paying the fare, or vagrancy were serious.

Comparing the results with a similar survey in the United States, the researchers say a majority everywhere blamed crime on lack of parental discipline, although the feeling was stronger in the United States than in Britain.

**Coroner wants law to redefine term 'treasure'**

From Our Correspondent

York  
Mr. Anthony Morris, the York coroner, wants Parliament to redefine the term treasure. Writing in the bulletin of the York Archaeological Trust, he questions whether he and his colleagues have any enforceable legal powers to deal with the finding of treasure and says the situation needs clarifying.

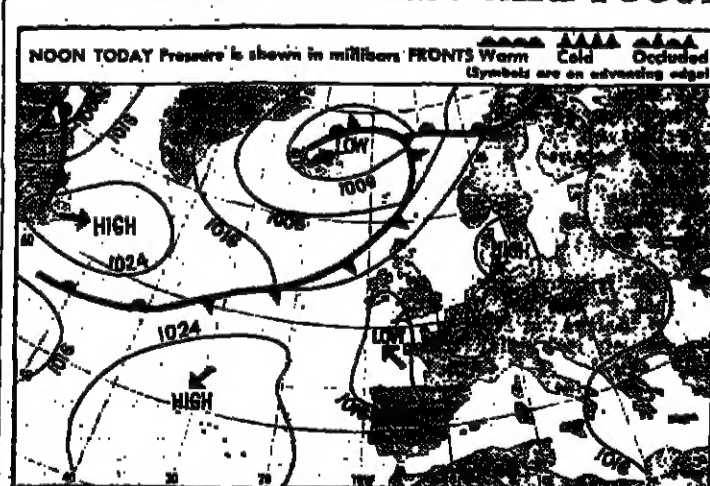
Mr. Morris suggests that a simple statutory reform would be to redefine treasure as "all personal property of antiquarian interest found buried, hidden or concealed." Concealment of it would be a statutory offence, triable by a coroner sitting with a jury, and there would be a right of appeal to a Crown Court.

He said doubts had been raised since the Theft Act of 1967 abolished the common law offence of concealment of treasure the aim of which was to preserve Britain's assets for the Crown. But there were difficulties in proving cases.

Parachutists honour two dead comrades  
The Army's Black Knights from a display team made a ceremonial jump over Jersey yesterday in memory of two colleagues who died within 24 hours of one another in parachute accidents on the island.

On Friday, Lance Corporal Edward Brennan, aged 24, of the 1st Parachute Battalion, died when his parachute failed to open. He was on a Land-Rover came down into the sea. On Saturday Bomber David Binn, also aged 24, of the 1st Parachute Battalion, died when he landed in the sea instead of on a beach at Bel Royal.

Major Harnett said he could not give any details of the accidents before the official inquiry. But there were totally different circumstances

**Weather forecast and recordings**

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts shown as solid lines. Cloud cover as percentage.

Today  
Sun rises: 5.28 am. Moon sets: 6.18 pm. New Moon: August 7. Lighting up: 9.15 pm to 4.59 am. High water: London Bridge 11.31 am, 5.58 pm (19.0 ft). Avonmouth 4.21 am, 10.64 pm (17.7 ft). Dover 9.16 am, 5.20 pm (17.9 ft). Hull 3.56 am, 5.00 pm (19.6 ft). Liverpool 9.12 am, 7.77 pm (25.4 ft). 9.42 pm, 5.11 pm (26.5 ft).

Central S. England, W. Midlands, N. Wales: Mostly dry, sunny periods; a few early mist patches; perhaps scattered thundery showers in evening; wind SE, light; max temp 21°C (69°F). Channel Islands, SW England, S. Wales: Sunny intervals, scattered thundery showers especially later in the day; wind SE, light or moderate; 26°C (79°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Dry in many areas at first but outbreaks of thundery rain in the SW will spread to N. and parts of E. Britain later; becoming somewhat cooler generally.

Sea passages: S. North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind E, light or moderate; sea slight. St. George's Channel: Wind R or SE, light; sea smooth. Irish Sea: Wind variable, light; sea calm.

Saturday  
London: Temp: max. 7 am to 7 pm, 27°C (81°F); min. 7 pm to 7 am, 15°C (59°F). Humidity, 7 am to 7 pm, 60 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 7 pm, nil. Sun, 24hr to 7 pm, 14.4hr. Bar. mean sea level, 7 pm, 1,024.8 millibars, rising.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; th, thunder.

Altitude	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	21	SE	100	21	SE	100
Birmingham	20	SE	100	20	SE	100
Manchester	19	SE	100	19	SE	100
Cardiff	18	SE	100	18	SE	100
Edinburgh	17	SE	100	17	SE	100
Glasgow	16	SE	100	16	SE	100
Belfast	15	SE	100	15	SE	100
Newcastle	14	SE	100	14	SE	100
Sheffield	13	SE	100	13	SE	100
Nottingham	12	SE	100	12	SE	100
Leeds	11	SE	100	11	SE	100
York	10	SE	100	10	SE	100
Sheff	9	SE	100	9	SE	100
Not	8	SE	100	8	SE	100
Leeds	7	SE	100	7	SE	100
York	6	SE	100	6	SE	100
Sheff	5	SE	100	5	SE	100
Not	4	SE	100	4	SE	100
Leeds	3	SE	100	3	SE	100
York	2	SE	100	2	SE	100
Sheff	1	SE	100	1	SE	100
Not	0	SE	100	0	SE	100
Leeds	-1	SE	100	-1	SE	100
York	-2	SE	100	-2	SE	100
Sheff	-3	SE	100	-3	SE	100
Not	-4	SE	100	-4	SE	100
Leeds	-5	SE	100	-5	SE	100
York	-6	SE	100	-6	SE	100
Sheff	-7	SE	100	-7	SE	100
Not	-8	SE	100	-8	SE	100
Leeds	-9	SE	100	-9	SE	100
York	-10	SE	100	-10	SE	100

**Vandalism discounte after blas hurts six**

From Our Correspondent

Gloucester  
Five youths seen from an electric car could not have been re for a double explosion. Late early yesterday six people were hurt, police said, but cause of the explosion technical.

Mr. John Carter, 22, of 10, Avenue N, Bristol, and Mr. Fin aged 25, of 11, Mifflin Rd, were both said to be in Gloucester General Hospital, with burns to 1 and 2 hands, yesterday.

Police Sergeant Jeffries, aged 35, and Meek, aged 29, in hospital, Bristol, with their arms, faces and were also said to be in Mr. Rogers, 40, of 11, Blechley, Bucking who suffered similar was in satisfactory.

His wife, Rosemary, was discharged after to be hands after the car burning clothing husband.

**Special squad hunt for £1m gem thief**

By a Staff Reporter

The police have special squad in robbery, at the Heston Safes Deposits on Saturday armed and masked men an estimated £1m in cut gems and jewelry.

The squad, under Philip Woods, is working with Scotland Yard's Heston Safes Deposits in a hand-to-hand search of a building, broke open strong boxes, and a black car. The number is thought to be 4066.

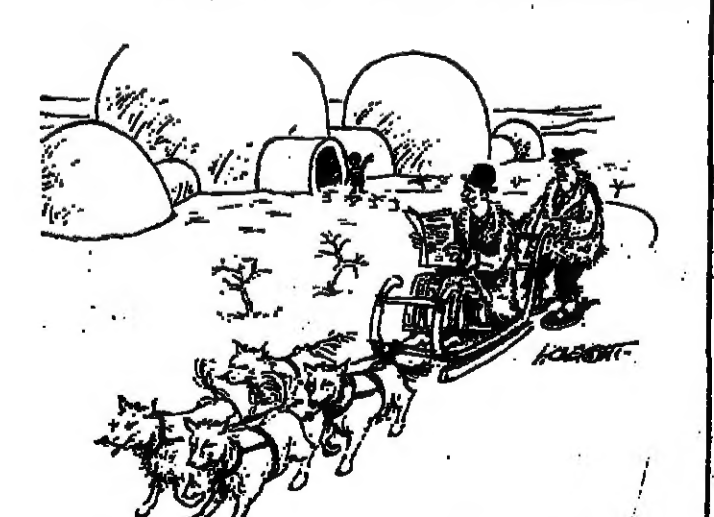
A few owners of the have still to see it. Some who described parts of their hours able to list them may take the police days to discover the of the stolen articles.

Jewelry valued at £30,000 and £40,000 scattered on the floor. Airport raid: Police a ing for three armed in raiders who stole a regular cargo warehouse row Airport early on.

Roalds Yard said men escaped with £2 of jewelry and some cigarette lighters. Thought to be seen in

Free Concorde  
British Airways is from 31st June flight in at twice the speed of August 24, bank hol day. The 35 passenger chosen from postal as in a national ballot.

Smoking protest  
Mr. John Hicks, age his wife, of Harfist East Grinstead, Suu begun a hunger strike, the ICI laboratory, Alderley, Cheshire, at smoking experime heales.

**Our presence will make your heart grow fonder.**

If you are resident overseas, the best way of keeping in touch with events back home is by reading *The Times*.

However, due to rising costs and to avoid any unnecessary wastage of newspaper, *The Times* has reduced the number of copies offered for casual sale both at home and abroad.







WEST EUROPE

# Moderate colonel tries to regain control of Portuguese regiment

From Michael Kalpe  
Lisbon, Aug 3

With tension growing between the moderate and left-winged wings within the Portuguese Armed Forces Movement, a full assembly of the Commando Regiment is due to take place tomorrow which may significantly affect the political balance.

Colonel Jaime Neves, a moderate officer, was removed from command of the regiment on Thursday by a group of left-winged soldiers, attempting to regain control of the unit.

General Oreste Saravia de Carvalho, a member of the ruling military triumvirate and commander of Copcon, the internal security force, who initially backed the mutineers and transferred Colonel Neves, seven of his officers and four sergeants, has agreed to reopen the matter.

Colonel Neves has openly challenged the left-winged control of the Armed Forces Movement (AFM) and admitted he would be prepared, if necessary, to join a counter-coup to put the revolution back on the right line.

He has accused the 240-man assembly of the AFM of being dominated by a minority.

He has criticised the direction the AFM is taking and a series of interviews with Portuguese newspapers.

Asked by the newspaper *O Capital* what his attitude would be to a new coup, Colonel Neves replied: "I can say I would take part in a coup. But it depends on the coup. I would only do it if it would benefit, without any

# Coup ousts leader of Comores Islands

From Richard Wigg  
Paris, Aug 3

President Ahmed Abdallah, who declared the Comores Islands unilaterally independent just under a month ago, was today himself deposed by opposition elements, according to reports from the former French colony.

Mr Abdallah was apparently absent from Moroni, the capital, on Grande Comore Island and on his native island of Anjouan when the coup occurred. The islands are between Madagascar and the east African coast.

Coups were reported in various parts of the capital, and the main army barracks and government offices, including the radio, were quickly seized by the rebels.

News of the coup was given on the radio this afternoon by Mr Ali Silihi, spokesman of the self-styled "United Front of Opposition Parties" which had for some time grouped themselves against the autocratic governing ways of the Comores president.

Mr Silihi said: "In the name of you all, I announce the Abdallah Government has fallen from power. The representatives of the political groups of the archipelago, without exception, will be summoned to concert moves so as to create a democratic state to preserve the territorial integrity of the archipelago and its progress."

Another island in the archipelago, Mayotte, where the population is predominantly Christian—the rest of the islands are predominantly Muslim—voted by 65 per cent to stay French in the referendum organized by the Abdallah Government last November, a verdict which Paris has indicated it accepted. It does not seem, however, that Mayotte had any part in today's coup.

Speaking on French radio tonight, Mr Silihi proposed discussions with Mayotte leaders, saying he believed they were not systematically against independence but, for the deposed President, whom he blamed for having provoked the "break up" of the Comores.

In the December referendum Mr Abdallah had a triumph of 95 per cent total poll, in favour of independence, spread over the four islands.

There are four parties grouped in the opposition movement. The most important is the Umma Party, led by Prince Said Muhammad, who is a former president of the Council of the Comores, where he preceded Mr Abdallah. The son of the last independent sultan arrived in the late nineteenth century, he is thought to be one of the leaders of today's coup.

# Warsaw to allow 125,000 Germans to leave Poland

From Our Correspondent  
Berlin, Aug 3

The agreement between Poland and West Germany to allow up to 125,000 Germans to leave Poland reached after eight hours of tough negotiations between the two countries' leaders in Helsinki, is to be initiated in Bonn this week.

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Mr Gierk, the Polish party leader, agreed that the movement of Germans, to take place over the next four years, would be balanced by West German credits to the value of DM1,000m (about £180m) plus a lump sum of DM1,300m (about £240m).

The credits will be offered at an interest rate of 2.5 per cent. Since the agreement was reached on the night of July 31, Mr Gierk has let it be known that he will pay his long-postponed visit to Bonn next year.

The agreement between Poland and West Germany has been mixed. The Social Democrat and Free Democrat coalition parties have welcomed the settlement, but the opposition Christian Democratic Union of Poland of a blackmail approach.

A spokesman for the Federation of Expellees claimed that the figure for Germans allowed to leave Poland was short by 100,000, and the daily paper *Berliner Morgenpost* alleged that the nominated figure left out 160,000 people anxious to come to West Germany.

It headlined its editorial today "extortions", recalling that Herr Schmidt was told that applications for exit permits could also be filed after the four-year term.

# Cash collected after kidnap boy's murder

Sneyder, Aug 3.—A German bricklayer today led police to the body of the schoolboy aged 13, who he kidnapped and murdered on Friday before collecting a £15,000 ransom from the boy's family.

Siegfried Nothacker, aged 37, was arrested yesterday after attempting to pay for petrol with some of the ransom money delivered by the father of Willy Zimmermann, who was already dead.

Herr Nothacker, who worked for the family transport company, at first maintained he had freed the boy, but was arrested shortly after picking him up from school on Friday.

In a letter statement to police, Herr Nothacker—who was convicted of murder in 1954—said he fired a gas pistol into the boy's face when he attempted to jump from the kidnap car during an aimless drive through the city. He then strangled the boy with a belt.—AP.

# US lawyer alleges torture of Basque detainees

By a Staff Reporter

Torture of detainees in the Basque region is alleged by an American lawyer who recently returned from a 10-day mission to Spain on behalf of Amnesty International.

Mr Thomas Jones, from Washington, said he was convinced that all the police forces had taken part in the torture of Basque prisoners, including the Civil Guard and the security police.

Victims who had been released from prison, had told him of severe and systematic beatings, of salivary beating on the face, of the use of electric cigarettes, and near drowning through being submerged in water while suspended upside down.

One victim, whose scars were visible three months later, told Mr Jones that he had been beaten by five or six policemen with whips while his hands were handcuffed under his legs.

# Gruelling start to holiday season

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Aug 3

The first weekend of France's August holiday migration has been the most gruelling seen off in terms of traffic bottlenecks, for the past 10 years. By night an estimated three million men, women and children had departed by road or rail to take their statutory one month's paid holiday.

M. Robert Galley, the Minister of Public Works, who is responsible for the roads programme, estimated a 20 per cent increase in traffic over last year. However, France expanded its building programme, he said, no system could hope to solve the problem posed by such a volume of departures all concentrated in a three-day period starting Friday.

Police claimed that the record bottlenecks on the main roads to the Mediterranean coast were

due to a substantial increase in the number of foreign cars. French families who are going to holiday in Italy, which began this weekend, have been blocked by mammoth traffic jams. Others had been forced to sleep on the roadside.

The worst traffic hold ups were in the south-west, where the Spanish border has been sporadically harassed road and rail traffic.

An explosive device today damaged a transformer of the French State Electricity Board at Luget, near Montpellier, the centre of the region of the discontented winemakers, depriving part of the town of power supplies.

Paris, Aug 3.—A record 40-mile long traffic jam formed today between Narbonne and the Spanish border as French police reported an estimated three million vehicles carrying holiday-

# £700,000 tax repayment by Rome to wealthy family

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, Aug 3

The debt-ridden municipality of Rome has had its troubles increased with an order to repay to the Torlonia family more than £700,000 in local taxes paid from 1957 to 1971.

The Torlonia family, according to published tax assessments, is the richest family in the city. The decision to make the municipality repay some of their taxes was apparently taken some seven months ago and has only now been revealed as the result of a question raised in the Rome municipal

OVERSEAS



Indians from all over Britain marched in London yesterday to present to Mr S. K. Nehru, their High Commissioner, demands for the release of political prisoners and the restoration of democratic institutions in India.

# Delhi defied over emergency

From Peter Hazell  
Ravallipindi, Aug 3

Delhi and the opposition between the people and the Government have been defied over the emergency. Mr Patel is reported to have declared that as far as possible the United Front Government will ensure that civil liberties remain unhampered in Gujarat and he will not impose bans on meetings and processions.

"I have appealed to the people to keep cool and behave in a manner which befits those who claim to be followers of Mahatma Gandhi," he is reported to have said.

Indian censors apparently allowed the Press Trust of India to publish Mr Patel's statement—an indication that the central Government might be attempting to build up a case to justify future plans to intervene in the recalcitrant state.

Under the constitution law and order in the 21 federal

# Portugal plans Angola airlift of 250,000

Luanda, Aug 3.—Another four Boeing airliners packed with Portuguese refugees were leaving Luanda for Lisbon today as the biggest exodus of white settlers from Africa since the Algerian war gathered momentum.

Evacuation plans announced yesterday by a senior Portuguese official provide for about 250,000 whites to be flown out of Angola within the next three months.

About 125,000 Portuguese have already left the country, which is due to become independent on November 11. Estimates of the original Portuguese population in Angola range from 350,000 to 500,000. An estimated 1,500 white non-Portuguese are still left, including 800 West Germans in a farming community in eastern Angola. Reports today said that the West German Government was making arrangements for a ship to evacuate them on Tuesday.

A Portuguese military communiqué today reported clashes between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) at Benguela, about 430 miles south of Luanda.

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The two countries agreed to continue to pursue humanitarian problems, and to make reference to United States interest in the Jewish emigration issue.

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A Foreign Office official will greet Mr Ford on British soil.

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The new commitment was welcomed by Romanian officials as the kind of bulwark they consider psychologically important, despite Soviet acceptance in Helsinki of a principle renouncing the use of force.

# Nigerian unions back new regime

From Nicholas Ashford  
Accra, Aug 3

The new regime in Nigeria has spent the weekend consolidating its position within the country. Yesterday the military government reopened the borders, which had been closed since the coup (except for visitors from countries in the West African Community), and permitted the resumption of international flights.

Several hundred British and other foreign travellers who had been stranded in Nigeria since the coup queued at airports and airline offices to secure seats on the few available aircraft.

Brigadier Murtala Mohammed's Government has received further pledges of support from leading Nigerians, including some who have lost their posts since the coup.

More important, they have also received the backing of the trade unions. Mr Samuel Udo Bassey, General Secretary of the Nigerian Trade Union Federation, said that union members agreed with the new Head of State that the country had been "drifting aimlessly".

Nigeria's unions have emerged as a formidable force in recent months, particularly since the wave of strikes which followed the controversial Udoji report on pay awards for public sector employees. The unions are increasingly regarded as the only organized force in the country apart from the Army.

Meanwhile, the success of Nigeria's coup is continuing to cause alarm among some of Africa's military rulers. Lieutenant-General Seyi Kunkun, the Niger head of state, has announced the arrest of three of the country's leaders, including Major General Sani Abacha, and Major General Sani Abacha, General Kunkun accused them of attempting to divide the people and set up an ideological clique.

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# Bougainville to secede from New Guinea

Port Moresby, Aug 3.—The leaders of Bougainville's secessionist movement announced tonight that the copper-rich Pacific island would break away from the rest of Papua-New Guinea on September 1.

The statement was prepared by Mr Aloysius Noga, the Bougainville provincial government's acting chairman. Mr Noga said the Bougainville district planner, and Father John Momi, the island's regional representative in the Papua-New Guinea Assembly.

Mr Noga said the decision was made by 37 leaders from all over the island.

The September 1 declaration will precede by only 15 days Papua-New Guinea's own independence celebrations.—Reuter.

# New York heatwave killing

From Our Correspondent  
New York, Aug 3

A man was shot and killed by his neighbour in a fight that developed over a fire hydrant which was spraying all over the street.

Mr Rafael Millan, who had been complaining about the low water pressure caused by the hydrant, was a victim of the annual violence that distracts New York's heat waves from their benign English equivalents.

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# Swedes warned Ford aircraft

Stockholm, Aug 3.—The United States Air Force jet carrying President Ford from Helsinki to Bucharest, strayed from its flight path towards the Swedish military zone and was warned off by an interceptor, the Swedish General Staff said today.

A fighter equipped with air-to-air missiles warned it back to its authorized air lane—Reuter.

# 80 pc French support for limited nudism

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Aug 3

A public opinion poll to be published tomorrow by the weekly *L'Express* shows that 80 per cent of those questioned believed that nudism should be permitted in special areas in France.

The Sofres poll estimates that 76 per cent of French people would not mind seeing their own wives or daughters in public, although if the breasts happened to be of their own wives only 47 per cent of men would approve and 49 per cent disapprove.

# £700,000 tax repayment by Rome to wealthy family

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, Aug 3

The debt-ridden municipality of Rome has had its troubles increased with an order to repay to the Torlonia family more than £700,000 in local taxes paid from 1957 to 1971.

The Torlonia family, according to published tax assessments, is the richest family in the city. The decision to make the municipality repay some of their taxes was apparently taken some seven months ago and has only now been revealed as the result of a question raised in the Rome municipal

# 20 executions in Ethiopia

Adis Ababa, Aug 3.—Ethiopian radio announced today that 20 people had been executed for anti-government activities. It accused them of killing farmers and other people loyal to the military Government.

# Rabies alert declared in Australia

Canberra, Aug 3.—A rabies alert was declared in Australia today after a man in hospital in Melbourne was suspected of being a victim. He had been bitten by an animal while on holiday in Bangkok. Australia is one of the few rabies-free countries in the world.—Reuter.

# Unfortunate illusions left over from the security conference at Helsinki

By David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent

If there are any illusions left after the security conference in Helsinki, Britain can take its fair share of them.

The view of Mr Wilson, the Prime Minister, and Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, is that Britain has now returned to the top table. The theory is that after the referendum which established the British people's commitment to the European Community, and after the Government's latest measures to halt inflation, which have established British economic credibility, the comity of nations now takes Britain seriously.

President Ford and Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, both listened to Britain with respect and attention, and the British, indeed, have a good deal to say for themselves.

The Prime Minister takes satisfaction from his belief that the enhanced British position is all a matter of political timing. He showed good timing in holding the referendum on Europe when he did and winning it so convincingly. And the Government showed good timing in waiting to tackle inflation until

# Mr Brezhnev's 'triumph'

Moscow, Aug 3.—The Soviet press today hailed the week's European summit in Helsinki as a "triumph of the peaceful policy" of the Soviet Communist Party, "with Leonid Brezhnev at its head".

But it attacked "Maoist provocateurs" and "imperialist reactions" and said they were working together to fan the cold war.

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## OVERSEAS

President Amin promises to seek  
advice of colleagues before  
taking action as OAU chairman

Our Correspondent  
Nairobi, Aug 3  
President Amin of Uganda, new chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), clearly expects the successful completion of the 15th OAU summit conference in Kampala.

In a post-conference meeting with the press at the weekend, he was restrained and cautious in his remarks, but in his new office he would commit OAU to policies more than most of its members would accept.

He insisted that he would not take any action on behalf of the OAU without first consulting other heads of state. He rejected suggestions that he was achieving by the Kampala summit and that it had been unable to tackle the African issues.

The conference opened on Friday evening and closed on an all-night session at 10.30 on Friday. From the outset, there appeared to be no limits to its ability to deal with the issues.

Observers thought it was a triumph that the conference managed to clear even a few of the hurdles in its path. The most difficult question was that of Palestine in the Middle East. There was a strong Arab lobby in the conference, with Mr Yasser Arafat, Palestinian Liberation Organisation's leader, prominent, although his status was that of an observer.

The African states declined to support the extreme Arab line, but the call for expulsion of Israel from the United Nations, in this way showed their independence of thought.

The Nigerian coup, which General Gowon soon had delivered a last speech to the conference.

once reviewing liberation and the Angolan situation, tended to defuse the expected attacks on the Rhodesian and South African regimes.

However, the OAU reinforced its backing for the African National Congress in Rhodesia with a promise to support guerrilla action if peaceful methods failed. He reaffirmed that if Mr Vorster wanted a dialogue, it must be with the Pan-Africanist Congress and the African National Congress in his own country.

Economic issues tended to be overshadowed by political ones; but African countries are preparing to take a strong line at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly on ways of securing a realistic return for their production of commodities.

Questioned about the declaration of independence for Cabinda by its liberation movement, which the OAU's representative in Kampala was not accorded observer status, President Amin said the three Angolan liberation movements agreed that Cabinda was an integral part of Angola. However, the OAU's conciliation commission, which is to be sent to Angola, would consider the matter.

Meanwhile, four bomb explosions in and around Kampala during the past week, which caused little damage, have raised the possibility of a small-scale civil war. The identity of its leaders is not known. No reports of the bombs have been published in Uganda.

After the initial explosions, some of which damaged electricity pylons near Kampala

without affecting the main power supply, an anonymous telephone call to a Nairobi newspaper threatened further explosions if heads of state attending the OAU conference did not return home immediately. But no further explosions appear to have occurred.

Armed troops guarded the conference centre in Kampala, as well as the telephone exchange and other key points. Guards were also seen on electricity sub-stations and there were groups of uniformed police every few yards along the 21-mile road from Kampala to Entebbe airport.

The underground movement may be hoping to draw support from the widespread discontent at high prices and shortages of essential goods which have been evident in Uganda for more than a year. Special arrangements were made to shield delegates and others attending the OAU conference from the shortages, and supplies of bread, butter, beer, soft drinks and toilet paper were specially released for the occasion.

President Amin himself showed no concern for his own position while chairing the conference. He says he plans to visit several newly independent African countries during his year as OAU chairman.

Tel Aviv, Aug 3.—President Amin once asked Israel for military aid to both Dar es Salaam and, when this was refused, relations between the two countries began to deteriorate. Mr Abba Eban, the former Israeli Foreign Minister, said today.

But even during the honeymoon between Uganda and Israel, he said, "I had the impression that man was not mature from the mental viewpoint—and he is now not only head of state of one of the richest of the African states but head of the biggest block in the United Nations."—Reuter.

## The Royal Ladies

How a reluctant Queen  
established royalty as a professionAs a child  
with her elder  
sisterFlowers for  
grandmother on her  
birthdayA formal  
portrait as a young  
womanWith the  
king on honeymoon  
in 1933In her role  
of mother with the two  
princessesCairo and PLO split  
on expulsion plan

Paul Martin  
Nairobi, Aug 3  
A serious rift has developed between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). President Sadat's stand against efforts to mobilise Arab support for Israel's expulsion from the United Nations, a bitter attack, the Egyptian declaration that Egypt's behaviour at the Organisation of African Unity summit in Kampala constituted "disrespectful defence" of a "national renunciation" of a "national commitment" reflects the disappointment by the guerrillas and their Arab supporters at the failure to win over the African states to their hard line policy on Israel.

Although the Egyptian campaign has been limited to the PLO and its allies, the eventual chances could be lost for the Arab unity forged in the war against Israel.

The question of Israel's expulsion from the United Nations is a debated point among the Arab states. Although Egypt believes it should be used as a threat to force Israel, it has opposed to put the issue to the United Nations General Assembly. To do so, it argued, would scuttle the peace efforts and drive a wedge between the Arabs and United States.

For their success at the summit, the PLO and hardliners had hoped to win through with a unanimous vote of support for Israel's

expulsion by the African states. This was to have been an important stepping stone in the campaign to win Third World support for the final result on Israel at the General Assembly.

Hence, Egypt's moderating influence on the African leaders has put it in the firing line.

In its official organ *Falastin al Thawra*, the PLO declared that the Egyptian moves at the Kampala summit exposed "American schemes" in the area. "This was clearly revealed when there rose those willing to defend the rights of Israel to remain in the world body," the newspaper said.

This was in spite of the fact that it is not disowning their national commitment to the Palestine cause and flagrant deviation from the resolutions of the Rabat (Arab) summit and the United Nations.

It went on to allege: "This Egyptian attitude is the culmination of successive deviations from the Arab unity and the work of the new Egyptian policy towards all Arab and international issues. If anything, this attitude shows that the price of a flimsy of Sinai soil is the recognition of the Zionist entity and even the defence of its international legality, which rightfully belongs to Palestine and its people."

As a result, it declared, it had become an urgent "revolutionary and national target for the Palestinians to define their attitude to Egypt's policy."

Khartoum, Aug 3.—Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, today called for a policy-coordination conference group Egypt, Syria and Jordan and the PLO.—UPI.

UN-Israel  
talks in  
Stockholm

From Our Correspondent  
Stockholm, Aug 3  
Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, flew unexpectedly to Stockholm today for an airport meeting with Mr Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

The United Nations leader told reporters after a 90-minute session that they discussed the possibility of a new round of talks between Israel and the Arab states, and Arab pressures to expel Israel from the United Nations.

The meeting, held in VIP rooms at Stockholm airport, was requested by Dr Waldheim and arranged through the Swedish Government. He flew from Vienna this morning to meet Mr Rabin, who had been in Stockholm for a Socialist international conference.

Later today, Dr Waldheim returned to Vienna and Mr Rabin flew to Tel Aviv.

Egypt arrest of  
20 communists  
in secret groups

Cairo, Aug 3.—A secret communist organization has been uncovered in Egypt. Its 20 members have been arrested and charged with attempts to overthrow the Government and change the state's economic and political system, Cairo newspapers reported today.

Al-Akhar said that the organization, the International Communist League, had links with the Arab Communist Organization in Syria.

Turkish Cypriots ready for  
exodus to the north

Pollis, Cyprus, Aug 3.—Hundreds of Turkish Cypriot villagers in the west of Cyprus packed their belongings today in preparation for the move to the northern sector of the island, which has been controlled by Turkey since last year's invasion.

Under an agreement announced yesterday between leaders of the two Cypriot communities, more than 9,000 Turkish Cypriots, mainly in Paphos area, will be free to cross into the Turkish-controlled zone if they so wish.

In return, a similar number of Greek Cypriots living in enclaves in the Turkish zone will be free to remain there if they desire.

The agreement to allow the Turks to go north, reached at talks in Vienna, has led many observers to say that the separa-

tion of the two communities, ever under Foreign Government, is now an established fact.

Mr Osman Orik, the Turkish Cypriot deputy leader, has estimated that Turks in the south are scattered in 60 villages and towns with mixed ethnic groups.

Vienna, Aug 3.—Mr Glafkos Clerides, the leader of the Greek community in Cyprus, and Mr Rauf Denkash, his Turkish counterpart, left here today in cheerful mood after their third round of talks which ended yesterday.

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Greek hopes for  
prus  
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Our Correspondent  
Athens, Aug 3  
Greek hopes for a settlement of the Cyprus issue have been as a result of the active display by the nine members of the European Community, the back-stage talks in Helsinki and the United States of the intercommunal in Vienna.

President Makris, is usually reserved about the future of the Cyprus issue. In Athens: "After the success at Helsinki there more chances for a just solution of the Cyprus problem."

He flew back from Helsinki Mr Karamanlis, the Greek Minister, and they used views during the trip.

## Officers 'spread fear' before coup

Mario Modiano  
Athens, Aug 3  
Retired brigadier who was of Greek Army intelligence at the time of the 1967 coup has disclosed that the number of officers involved in the coup did not exceed 70.

Gallier Panourghias Panagiotis, now a Member of Parliament and Under-Secretary of State, said after the coup he had a list of the 70 officers involved in their role in the coup. He had been a member of the coup, first, to a climate of Communist revolt, created by the conspira-

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The brigadier disclosed that Mr Nikolaos Makrezos who was serving at the Central Intelligence Service, had called on him about one month before the 1967 coup with a confidential report.

It alleged that thousands of Soviet chomgus with a spare barrel for bullets, had been imported into Greece, that the Communists were inspecting the Athens sewers for possible storage of explosives, and even that when the time came, Soviet submarines would have landed troops in southern Greece.

The seventy-fifth birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother today is a suitable occasion to survey the success with which she has modernized, humanized and brought the monarchy into today, establishing the modern image of the profession of "being Royal".

The role of our royal ladies is significant and the youngest generation who are now supporting cast to the monarchy are, in their attitudes and their work, the direct result of over 50 years pioneering by the Scotswoman who married the second son of King George V in 1923.

Of these younger women, some were born royal and others married royalty. When Elizabeth Bowes Lyon married the Duke of York, she became an HRH herself on the way to becoming, unexpectedly, a reluctant Queen and then the Queen Mother of today.

Fifty years ago the Establishment was fairly rigid. But tireless, dedicated, shrewd and tough, the Duchess gave confidence to her shy stammering husband and they both brought their two girls up in a happy and secure home. "Your work is the rent you pay for life," she told them. They were never behind with the rent.

The Smart Young People of the twenties expected the "Little Duchess" to be a sentimental, sweetly pretty person. They could not have been more wrong. She had formidable if surprising allies, George V and Queen Mary, whom she loved and who loved her. It soon became evident that the Duke of York was gaining in confidence and poise in the background of his home and children, and the intensely difficult days leading to the Abdication. Queen Mary remained steady-minded: she is reported to have said "This is a pretty kerfuffle of fish—we might be in Rumania." Between them Queen Mary and the new Queen Elizabeth II have made the monarchy more modern and more relevant.

The new Queen set about meeting the people in whom she was, and is, always deeply interested. She is never bored, never shows fatigue and has accepted total involvement in her job—entirely new living profession of being Royal. No one, born royalty or not, is born with the expertise needed smoothly to carry out a wide variety of duties: launching ships, inspecting guards of honour, conferring and receiving degrees, opening festivals, visiting every type of estate, factory, hospital or home, speaking at dinners, meetings, the Guildhall or Royal Academy. Royal ladies need to do their homework, even though they get support from their entourages, and their hosts.

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The brigadier disclosed that Mr Nikolaos Makrezos who was serving at the Central Intelligence Service, had called on him about one month before the 1967 coup with a confidential report.

It alleged that thousands of Soviet chomgus with a spare barrel for bullets, had been imported into Greece, that the Communists were inspecting the Athens sewers for possible storage of explosives, and even that when the time came, Soviet submarines would have landed troops in southern Greece.

others, is Princess Margaret. Even had she not been born daughter of a king and sister of a queen, life would have been difficult for her and with "as much privacy as a goldfish in a bowl". She has been entirely vulnerable to ill-informed and sometimes vicious criticism aimed at herself and her husband. At 40, she has deserved better than this. My own first memory of her is at the end of the last war, when at Windsor Castle in the Waterloo Room she and her sister stood alone in the centre as a stream of guests was presented to them; each one to talk for a few minutes and then he taken away as replacements were led up. It was a test both of hosts and guests, but the two girls of 17 and 13 were learning their job. When I arrived it was clear that Princess Elizabeth, though smiling, had run out of small talk. Princess Margaret gaily came to the rescue, asking a couple of relevant questions to which my uniform gave her a clue and cheerfully worrying that her French would not be equal to the foreign guests. As I was moved away, I saw Princess Margaret flash a smile of encouragement to her tired sister.

Today, having weathered her personal troubles of the past, she undertakes about 100 official engagements a year, receives an allowance of £15,000 and holds top-ranking appointments. She is Colonel-in-Chief to a variety of regiments: Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, and the Australian WRAC, is Commandant of St John Ambulance Brigade and Grand President of its Ambulance Association, as well as president of the Girl Guides. Yet there is not so much demand for "the Snowdon" as for others.

Princess Margaret's loyalty to her sister, the Queen, is absolute, as well as her admiration for her. She told Andrew Duncan that "as long as The Family can produce nicely brought up young people it will be all right."

As the youngest of the supporting cast of royal ladies, it is possible for us to assess, in Princess Anne, the liberation that the Queen Mother achieved for her children and grandchildren. Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, is a good example of the freedom given her by her parents to "do her thing" and get into the mainstream of her own age. Results have been good both for her and in her professional work as a royal lady. "Anne is lucky, she went to school, she's tough" another younger royal lady is reported to have said, and it is true that the rough-and-tumble of her riding has contributed to her ability to take things as they come and cope with them.

It is characteristic of what is expected of her that, on the day after the announcement of her engagement on May 29, 1973, she was seen in a photograph at Buckingham Palace, she kept her appointment to visit the Riding School for the Disabled at Radnage in Buckinghamshire.

She was 19 when she carried out her first full-dress royal "chore" presenting looks to the Welsh Guards on St David's Day in 1963 at Pwllheli. Before her marriage she had been known to fit in 17 public engagements in six days. Like her father, she is quick in repartee and fairly uninhibited in her public utterances. The girl who had handled a car on a police skipper, driven a 52 ton Chieftain tank, scored 11 bulls out of 20 rounds firing a sub-machine gun from the hip, was well able to stand up to the raging publicity after her engagement with more or less good temper. The terrifying experience of the attempted kidnapping in the Mall was not pleasant but she and Captain Phillips showed great courage and con-

ness and gratitude and sympathy to their bodyguard, chauffeur and others injured.

Sympathy went out to her from her age group when she did not do well enough in her GCE A levels to justify going to university, and also when she took a crash course at a language school in French. To her own generation Princess Anne is a trendsetter, as well as a young woman who will tackle anything once, who writes all her own speeches and whose off-the-cuff remarks are worth listening for. As the only girl in the Queen's family of boys she is remarkably unspoiled—and hard-worked.

It is possible that the Queen Mother felt understanding sympathy for the young Duke of Gloucester and his fair-haired Danish wife, Birgitte van Deurs, when, unexpectedly, they were brought into the front line of royal duties with responsibilities they had not anticipated. When Prince Richard of Gloucester, the second son of the then ailing duke, was up at Cambridge qualifying to become an architect, he met a Danish girl studying languages. When Miss van Deurs married Prince Richard in July, 1972, all seemed set fair for him to follow his chosen profession and Miss van Deurs left her post at the Danish Embassy with a pleasant life ahead. . . . but within six weeks the elder son of the Duke of Gloucester was killed in an air accident and Prince Richard became the heir to the dukedom. Prince and Princess Richard were faced with some of the responsibilities of Barnwell Manor, near Peterborough, the home of the duke, where Princess Alice (as she now is) was gallantly carrying on. When Prince Richard died in 1979, the new Royal Duke and his Duchess faced a mounting list of engagements and responsibilities.

Birgitte van Deurs took the transition from a secretarial job to that of a Royal Duchess with great simplicity and ease. Her lady-in-wait, Mrs Michael Wigley, says: "She's just herself. . . . and she ought to know. The royal image has rubbed off on her and she started with a real interest in people. The first royal tour of the Duke and Duchess was to Mexico in the winter of 1973 and much is always due to the support and help of their household, including Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland, who has looked after the office of the Duke of Gloucester as private secretary to Princess Alice and now to the new Duke and Duchess.

Her public life like the young Duchess for going by air to launch the frigate HMS Ardent with a leg in plaster after a skiing accident. The difficulty and danger that attended the birth of their son, got for the Duke and Duchess ready sympathy and now, as I was told at Kensington Palace, Alexander, Earl of Ulster, aged just on 6 months, is very well indeed. The news was completed by the sight of his father pushing the baby's pram in the garden. They make the most use of time—the Duke still occasionally gets to his architect's offices—and each weekend they go to Barnwell with Alexander and his Norfolk nanny Marilyn Walton.

The Duke and Duchess really did take the examinations of the St John Ambulance and the Duchess is Commandant in Chief of the Nursing Division in Wales, President of the London Region of the WRVS, of the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus among many other appointments which have her patronage and lively interest.

Miss Worsley of Yorkshire stepped right into the front line of younger royal ladies when she married the Duke of Kent in June of 1961. At first she was very much an Army wife. The Duke of Kent is a professional soldier

and his wife, then aged 28, was with him for three or four years in Germany and then Hongkong, so it was really a slow start to embarking on the public life of a royal lady. It was natural that, once back in England, she should accept a Yorkshire appointment as Chancellor of Leeds University and become Controller-Commander to the WRAC, a post held by the late Princess Royal. She is also Honorary Major-General and Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Catering Corps.

There are really three categories of her work and interests, her Yorkshire activities, Leeds International Piano contest, York City Trust, Yorkshire County Cricket and the Yorkshire Volunteers. Then there are the interests that date from the days when the Kents lived at Iwer in Bucks—the Mothers' Union, the Women's Institute which, when they went to live at Anmer Hall near Sandringham, she transferred to their Norfolk counterparts. The Duchess stressed that she wants to play an active part in the life of the country. And then there are the organizations and causes with which she has identified herself: Age Concern, Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid, work for arthritis, spasms, epileptics, rheumatism, amputees. She organizes her time so that all these have at least one visit from her every year and she fulfils her duties as Chancellor of Leeds University attending at least once a year for conferring degrees.

The three Kent children, the Earl of St Andrews, 13, Lady Helen Windsor, 11, and Lord Nicholas Windsor, nearly three, are happy in their Norfolk home with a liberal supply of animals. The Duchess is one of the best-dressed of the royals: she takes infinite pains to wear the right outfit for each occasion and the styles she chooses are clear cut and unfussy.

As a rule public opinion is basically shrewd: and the daughter of "Princess Marina" was taken to the hearts of all who watched her grow up and her marriage to the Hon Angus Ogilvy in 1963 was thoroughly popular. As Alexandra was thoroughly popular, as Alexandra grew up Princess Margaret was reported to have said that it would be a help when she could undertake some of the royal duties. It is an advantage for Princess Alexandra that she went to school —Heathfield gave her education and poise. Mr Ogilvy is said to have received a title on his marriage and there was more public reaction in his favour. He is a hard-working businessman.

The family home is Thatched House Lodge in Richmond Park and it was here that Princess Anne and her husband spent the night after their wedding before leaving on their honeymoon. The Ogilvys have two children, James Robert Bruce aged 11 and Marina, nearly nine. The Princess has her own household and her office in Kensington Palace where her private secretary, Miss Mona Mitchell, handles a considerable amount of arrangements for public and other engagements.

From the best of all press officers, Miss Anne Hawkins of Buckingham Palace, I learn that there is no "clearing house" for royal engagements; would be too complicated. For those out of London, it is the Lords Lieutenant of the Counties on whom they rely so that two sets of royal visitors do not arrive at the same place on the same day. The mass of work behind the scenes to ensure a smooth royal visit can be imagined, but it is part of the equipment of the royal ladies that they can cope with the unexpected, recognize old friends and take the initiative when interest is needed in something unscheduled.

Joan Woolcombe  
© Joan Woolcombe, 1975





















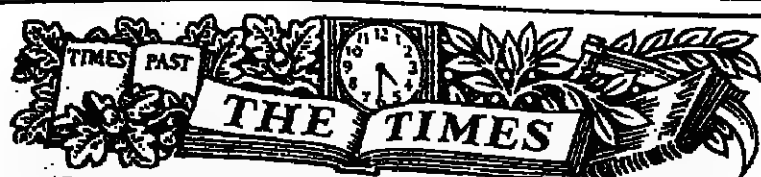












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## THE QUEEN MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY

Queen Mother, who celebrates her seventy-fifth birthday today, was born just before the end of the reign of Queen Victoria. Her life does therefore reflect the whole development of modern British monarchy to which she has herself contributed so much. Perhaps the most remarkable contrast is that between the disappearance of the monarchy during her lifetime and the survival and vitality of British monarchy.

The institution which has survived is the creation of three generations and of both the monarch and consort of each generation. It was King George and Queen Mary who first abolished the monarchy as an institution. Queen Victoria's monarch had been an example of good family life. Queen Victoria had in her childhood been withdrawn, reclusive and altogether imperial. There is an unaffected monarchy but the new monarchy which she endeared it to the British

people. It is very grand in its ceremonial but known to be very straightforward in its personal attitudes.

The grand ceremonial, which the Queen Mother in her time has done so well, is necessary. The function of royalty is to provide a symbolic focus for the deep and emotional feelings of loyalty, unity and confidence which both preserve and animate the nation. To represent Britain, or the other Commonwealth nations, and to be the ultimate sovereign, is a very important thing. Yet modern citizens want this important work to be undertaken in a spirit of humility and not in a spirit of self glorification. The Queen Mother has displayed the virtues of ordinary life in an extraordinary life.

To this modest tradition the Queen Mother has fully belonged but she has also added something to it. She made the British monarchy much more a part of natural much more grounded and less severe than it

was in the previous generation. She supported King George VI through the very hard labours of his very successful reign, particularly during the war, and made the public understand and warm to the shy sense of duty on which his life was based.

The business of being a Royal Family, as Prince Philip so clearly knows, has always been an exacting and difficult profession. Brilliance is usually a drawback and private virtue is not enough. The successful balance between the private and the public roles, based as it has been on three generations of honourable conduct, has strengthened the British monarchy as an institution to the great advantage of the country. And not the least of the Queen Mother's contributions is to have been the mother of a Queen who has shown that steady and modest mastery of difficult times which is both a British quality and a quality the British most admire.

## HOW WILL EDUCATION SPENDING BE CUT?

penditure on education amounts for well over half the total expenditure of local government. So, in any serious and sustained attempt by the Government to restrain the perennial increases in the share of national resources used by local authorities, education will have to accept a major share of the inevitable cuts. Mr. Mulley's ensive claim last month that after the cuts announced in Budget in April educational expenditure would enjoy a real of two per cent had a low ring.

Although local education authorities would have to make substantial economies to keep expenditure within this two per cent limit, few among those eminent in education expect they will be let off so easily. If total local government expenditure is kept to an increase of only 1.5 per cent in terms, such preferential treatment for the largest local authority service would mean that other services could not be cut at all, or might even have to be increased. Such discrimination

in favour of education, which would lead to important dislocations in other services, is neither likely nor particularly desirable.

Achieving the necessary economies in educational expenditure will not be painless. First, the strength of public sentiment in favour of continuing advances in education is considerable. Secondly, education is labour intensive like many local government services. As teachers require a long professional training, any proposal to make teachers redundant would involve the waste of the resources devoted to their training. Thirdly, current expenditure on education must be coordinated with the substantial capital expenditure on new and improved schools and colleges.

Nevertheless at present education possesses an overwhelming attraction for a government desperately needing to restrain the apparently inexorable growth of local authority expenditure. The number of school-age children has declined and will continue to decline for several years. So substantial economies can be achieved in primary and second-

ary education without too much damage to the standard of the service. Local authorities have been able to reduce considerably the number of new teachers they had expected to employ.

The Government has been able to announce the closure of some colleges of education and the amalgamation of others in more viable institutions of higher education. They may well also have to reexamine their commitment to the expansion of nursery education, however painful that reexamination may be. They should certainly act decisively and even ruthlessly to prevent colleges other than the universities and polytechnics extending their involvement in higher education. Here there is a strong case for greater discrimination in the allocation of resources than appears to be the case at present.

Helped by the declining school population, the education service through good housekeeping and a rigorous reassessment of priorities should be able to contribute to the need for economy in local government expenditure without sacrificing its present standards.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CABINDA

A declaration by the local independence movement (FLEC) of Cabinda's independence from Angola and Portugal is an indication both of Angola's integration and of increasing involvement by outside powers in its spreading civil war. In the Russian-armed, Russian-backed MPLA led by Dr. Agostinho Neto seized most of the enclave some weeks ago in a battle with FLEC and LA which wrecked the town and endangered the oil installations. But FLEC is backed, so not with arms, by Zaire, and Gabon.

Cabinda, separated by historical accidents from the mass of Angola by the estuary of the Congo, has an income from oil and royalties (all from the IF Oil Company's concession) of \$450 million a year. This is far the largest earner of foreign exchange by Angola, and even of coffee. Independent

Cabinda would put its 80,000 residents in the oil shakedown class. To hold it and milk it is strategically vital to MPLA, if, as seems increasingly likely, Dr. Neto is determined that his party shall be the only one to inherit Angola from Portugal, however long the costly war goes on. At the moment his forces are doing well. The rival FNLA forces, led by Mr. Roberto from Zaire, have failed to invest Luanda and are losing ground even in their homeland, the Uige province. Once FNLA is defeated and discredited, Dr. Neto could perhaps absorb the third party, led by Mr. Savimbi.

But President Mobutu has invested heavily in FNLA, which is the party of the relatively small but tenacious Bakongo tribe that straddles the Angola-Zaire frontier. He has the diverse support of China and the United States. He will soon have to decide if he is going to strike back at the MPLA and Russian influence.

Cabinda has here the makings of another Katanga, though Zaire would also have to put teeth and backbone into the Bakongo forces, before Dr. Neto's success becomes unstoppable.

But MPLA would then claim to stand for Angolan territorial integrity in accordance with OAU principles. It now controls the coast from Cabinda to Lobito, which gives it Russian backing (and the Armed Forces Movement, if it abandons neutrality) advantageous lines of communication.

The Marxist African nationalist parties have thus not only got a grip on the vitals of Angola but also control the newly independent states of San Tomé and Príncipe, and the Cape Verde Islands, soon to be merged with Guinea-Bissau. This is as promising an outlook for the Russian Navy, and embarrassingly enhances the West's dependence on South African facilities.

## David Wood

### Putting party before the rule of law

There is any Labour member of a House of Commons who believes it is a lawbreaker to be a Minister and his duty to be steadfast asserting the rule of law, then tonight is surely the time to stand and be counted. He will do so, though, only by defying a heavy repressive whip, a mandatory majority decision of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and the claret will of the Labour Party's national executive committee and its conference. In such circumstances heroes will be few, although there may be two or three half-heroes who will dare to abstain. Tonight the Housing Finance Bill, the so-called Clay Cross Bill, returns from the Lords to the Commons with four amendments, three of them substantial, the fourth no longer relevant. Mr. Croxall, the Secretary of State for the Environment, originally framed the Bill. It gave an amnesty to about 400 Labour councillors in England, Wales and Scotland who had knowingly, in an excess of official zeal, refused to raise council house rents under the Conservative measure, the Housing Finance Bill, 1972. The Lords' amendments, passed on June 23, would expose the councillors to surcharges of £1,000 and to a five-year disqualification.

Labour Government will not stand up to the House of Lords and carry out conference commitments. Mrs. Lena Jeger, the member of the executive who is likely to carry out any conference, has taken care to see that her colleagues put pressure on Mr. Croxall.

Mrs. Jeger was not content with that. Last Wednesday she had a motion before a special meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party in which she asked the House to reject the amendments, and Mr. Croxall made known beforehand that the PLP vote would mandate him in the Commons tonight. The unanimity of many Labour MPs about the amendments, for a motion to flout the law in full knowledge of their offence and of the penalties showed through: the motion was carried by 77 votes to 56, and Mr. Croxall accepted his orders without further demur. There is no doubt that some opponents strongly felt that the retrospective exculpation of past members (one is now on the Labour list who put party before the rule of law cuts damages) across the principle by which democratic lawmakers must live. Some other opponents, perhaps, were mainly marking their distaste for the Clay Cross affair and the campaign that exploited it.

It is notable that Mrs. Jeger herself, as the effectual agent of the motion, has gone out of her way to separate the Clay Cross councillors from her general argument, as though she never wants to hear the words Clay Cross mentioned again, partly because that issue is now dead, partly because she can defend the other 400 Labour councillors with more respectability. But in her public statements she does not for a moment retract the principle that the law, good or bad, must be obeyed until such time as it is repealed or amended, or that the observance of the law of the land is peculiarly binding upon all those who make law and administer it. For here and other members of the executive have a duty to the public, rather than to the party, to uphold the law, and that shall be the paramount. She argued in the meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and she has argued it elsewhere. It is this: that non-elective peers have

no right, or should be permitted no claim, to sit in judgment on elective local councillors. Though Mrs. Jeger, the member of the executive who is likely to carry out any conference, has taken care to see that her colleagues put pressure on Mr. Croxall.

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## Case for electoral reform

From Mr G. M. McGregor  
Sir, Robert Carr (article, August 1) rightly demonstrates that our present system of single member constituencies has been overtaken by the development of political extremism, of both left and right. Accordingly, in recent years we have oscillated between governments of left and right which have nothing in common except their determination to reverse as much as possible of their predecessor's programme before their minority mandate expires.

However, in his diagnosis, and indeed in his recommendation of an immediate commission of inquiry followed by a Speaker's conference, Mr Carr seems to evade the twin problems of urgency and of political realities.

Only the most optimistic can expect the present pay policy to survive unscathed. It is, as seems more probable, the combination of "special cases" and external inflationary factors maintains or even exacerbates the present rate of inflation. We may well face a general election within the next twelve months. If the system is not changed before then, we shall be forced to choose between a Labour party in which the moderates have been overcome by the extra-parliamentary, trade union muscle of their left wing, and a Conservative party which is lurching to the right, partly because its leadership genuinely has not yet learnt that traditional party politics have been overtaken by events and partly to justify sacking those leaders (including Mr Carr) who have painfully learnt that lesson.

It was the lack of bipartisan support for its economic policies that caused the last Conservative government to fall; the miners were merely the occasion but not the cause.

There seems little prospect of a Speaker's conference reporting in time to avert this disastrous choice, and will less likelihood of its recommendations being accepted by those MPs, of both left and right extremes, who would then be most likely to lose their seats.

In these circumstances, is it not possible for Mr Carr to make common cause with moderates of whatever party in order, firstly, to commission an urgent and authoritative review of the alternative electoral systems we could adopt and, secondly, to introduce appropriate legislation, this autumn? Or has the referendum exhausted the political will of those moderates, of all parties, who were still then able to put national interests above party discipline?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE M. MCGREGOR,  
9 Chalcor Crescent, NW1.

## Shotton steel

From Mr Tom Jones  
Sir, As a life long trade unionist and member of the Labour Party, may I urge the Government not to give way to the British Steel proposal to close steelmaking at Shotton.

I had the privilege for many years to be a union leader in this area and looked after the interests of the majority of the men working at Shotton.

It has an enviable record of labour relations, hardly any strikes in its 80 years of existence, and a working force which is second to none in my experience.

It is an extraordinary situation when the Government, trade unions, the Confederation of British Industries and everyone is crying out for productivity, for no strikes and for good labour relations, that there is a serious proposal to axe the works that has all these attributes.

Yet, British Steel proposes to invest heavily in areas which have had records of strikes and consequently big losses.

The consequences of closing steel in this small community of Shotton would be disastrous not only to the area, but to North Wales as a whole — at the last count this area had the highest unemployment figures in the whole of England, Scotland and Wales.

It is quite unfair the amount of investment that is going to areas and ports nearest the Common Market.

I urge the Government not to treat Shotton as a sacrificial lamb and to see the justice of the points made in the case for Shotton, which will be illustrated in your newspaper (advertisement, July 31).

Yours faithfully,  
TOM JONES, Deputy Chairman,  
WELSH COUNCIL,  
7 King George Street,  
Shotton, Deeside, Clwyd.

Private patronage

From Mr John Cordle, Conservative MP for Bournemouth, East and others

Sir, Members of both Houses of Parliament with representatives of college patronage boards as well as several private patrons and trustees.

The General Synod of the Church of England has voted in favour of a Measure being prepared to abolish all patronage, except only that of the Crown, and to establish a series of ad hoc boards to deal with cases as they arise.

We have agreed to form such a group, and to welcome correspondence to the House of Commons. The matter is urgent and calls for cooperation based on information.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN CORDLE,  
PATRICK CORMACK,  
LAUDERDALE,  
Westminster.

## Achievements of direct grant schools

From Mr A. Spedding  
Sir, You rightly draw attention to the "doubts that already exist about comprehensive schools" in your leader (July 31). The latest D.E.S. Statistics (1973, Vol 2), are relevant to this.

The age distribution of leavers in the selective system (ie, grammar and secondary modern combined) is broadly in line with that of the comprehensive system, and the proportion of leavers with specified achievements compare as follows (figures give percentages)

	Selective	Comprehensive
5 or more O, no A	14.8	12.2
1 or more A	24.5	18.9
2 or more A	19.4	14.0
University entrance	8.5	5.5

The extent of any "creaming" will of course depend on the comprehensive figures, but such creaming would need to be massive and accurate to justify, for example, the university entrance situation where the selective system is almost 55 per cent better (cf only 40 per cent better in 1968).

The achievements of the direct grant schools are impressive—for example almost 60 per cent of their leavers achieved two or more A levels, and 35 per cent went on to university.

Yours faithfully,  
A. SPEDDING,  
Alteryon,  
Coppertown Lane,  
Amersham, Buckinghamshire,  
July 31.

From the Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital

Sir, In a leading article on July 31 you state: "These (direct grant) schools are now faced with the stark choice of becoming independent schools or joining the maintained sector of secondary education as comprehensive schools." For some schools, no choice exists. Mine is by no means the only direct grant

## Editors and press freedom

From Mr C. Gordon Tether  
Sir, One of the great disadvantages of the focussing of attention on the "closed shop" threat to future press freedom is that it fosters the impression that all is well at the moment. This is clearly not so.

The Press Council has rightly pointed out that press freedom belongs to each of us—not to proprietors, journalists or print workers. It has also said that the implementation of this principle depends essentially on the right of editors to exercise an untrammelled and independent discretion as to what should or should not be published—that discretion to be influenced only by considerations of public interest.

So the role of the editor is crucial. But how far is he able to exercise such discretion when it comes up against what Lord Shawcross, Press Council chairman, has portrayed as a fact of newspaper life — "if someone controls a newspaper", he said a short time back, "it is under the editor he employs, a vehicle of their expression". Press behaviour during the referendum goes a long way to answering this question. On a wide open issue, all the main national newspapers identified themselves unequivocally on one side. And not only in leader columns. An independent survey has shown that in news coverage, features and even in the correspondence columns, the pro-Market bias was heavy and unmistakable.

The editors' role is crucial in another sense. They have been at pains to stress their concern to protect the freedom of expression of other writers and their staff—not just their own. But freedom from what? From being fettered from within as well as without?

Mr. Betherington, former Guardian editor, has spoken of the good journalists lost to the press "because what they wrote was not published or was doctored or

school in Bristol which has been told that there is no place for it in the maintained sector.

The local education authority has sufficient places of its own in central Bristol, so their reply is entirely logical. The *reductio ad absurdum* amounts to this—an historic blue-coat school with nearly 400 years of service to the less well off boys of Bristol behind it is now being forced by a central socialist government to go independent, raise its fees in consequence and thus move beyond the reach of the very people the socialists have traditionally wanted to help. It is insane.

Yours faithfully,  
H. G. EDWARDS, Headmaster,  
Queen Elizabeth's Hospital,  
Bristol 8.

From Miss Kathleen Gibberd  
Sir, With due respect to your leader writer ("Keeping the poor out of the best schools", July 31) it is hardly accurate to say that the direct grant schools "must decide quickly" and that "the brevity of the time-table for integration shows the Government has no intention of allowing time for genuine negotiations about the part they could play within the maintained sector".

Exactly these negotiations have been going on since the Circular on comprehensive education was published in July 1965, and in the beginning they were conducted hopefully on both sides. By 1970 the prospects for agreement except in a few cases seemed slight. See the *Public Schools Commission Second Report*, Chapter Four.

Since the Labour Government was committed, there had to be a date by which every school would say Yes or No. Five months after 10 years seems to me to be typically

Yours faithfully,  
KATHLEEN GIBBERD,  
Southouse,  
nr Lewes, Sussex.

because they were sickened by the instructions they got". My own experience may not be without relevance here.

I have been contributing a wide-ranging and independent column of commentary on public affairs to my paper for many years. However, a year ago I was sent—as part of a drive to alter the status of my work—a notice informing me that "First, like every other journalist, you are subject to the directives of the editor who alone decides what appears or does not appear; secondly, your column should in future confine itself to the general financial and banking scene and, this being a subject on which you have written for many years, the EEC problem".

I have refused to comply on the grounds that this directive both constitutes an affront to meaningful press freedom and would oblige me to downgrade my work by my own hand. However, this—plus the fact that the instruction is capable of "wide" interpretation—costs me the periodic banning of my work. In one recent period, four of the 10 columns I wrote were so banned. They dealt with such subjects as International Women's Year and the dilemma facing anti-Marketters.

Mrs Thatcher has spoken of the responsibility resting on those in the field of communication to see that people are given "the whole truth". How can journalists fulfil this duty while our approach to press freedom remains so subject to the out-dated and absurdly simplistic proposition that the handful of editors who captain the "vehicles of expression" of the newspaper proprietors can be properly regarded as the sole arbiters of what the public may read and what should be withheld from it?

Yours sincerely,  
C. GORDON TETHER,  
Bracken House,  
Cannon Street, EC4,  
July 28.

## Tree diseases

From Mr D. R. Johnston  
Sir, After reading Mr Guy Woodford's letter of July 26, you may wish to be reassured about the risk of further devastating tree diseases reaching this country from abroad.

For many years the Forestry Commission has imposed stringent restrictions on the importation of living trees. These ensure that except under very special circumstances, no tree is related to the country.

In addition, following the discovery that the virulent strain of the fungus causing Dutch elm disease reached Britain in the bark of elm logs, new regulations governing imported wood were quickly introduced. Although these regulations were designed partly to prevent the entry of carriers of Dutch elm disease not yet present here, they were aimed mainly at the diseases specifically mentioned by Mr Woodford, namely chestnut blight, Oak wilt and Elm phloem necrosis.

It should also be made clear that Dutch elm disease differs from the other diseases mentioned above, in that it has been present in this country since the 1920s. During this time it has, until the last decade, been characterised by a slow decline after a few years. On the basis of this knowledge and also on the basis of research carried out elsewhere in the world,

even if contacted can merely return to sleep, leaving the bell to ring all night. These nocturnal bells continue for at least 11 hours during which our sleep is totally ruined; many continue throughout the night. My wife and I are becoming nervous wrecks.

Surely an alarm-bell should alert people of a break-in? No one, however, seems to take any notice. A good time, it seems, to do a burglary!

I pay high rates and I am desperate, probably as was Mr Gasson, to find out what I can do to minimize this Chinese torture we have suffered for so long.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK NAPPER,  
147 Kings Road,  
Chelsea, SW3.

## Exhortation to buy British cars

From Professor N. Kurti, FRs

Sir, I have nothing against British cars. I have nothing against foreign cars. When in November 1973 we decided to buy a new car we approached the question with an open mind. After considering the cost of the car, the cost of running it and convenience of having it serviced and maintained near to where we live, we chose British Leyland's Mini Clubman. We have run it now for 19 months and about 13,000 miles. During this period the following two faults developed:

1. The knob of the clutch control became loose. It did not interfere with the running of the car and it was promptly repaired free of charge since it was within our warranty period.

2. A small fault developed with one of our seat belts. This too was promptly and expeditiously attended to and, although by then we were six months and 5,000 miles outside the warranty period, no charge was made for replacing the entire seat belt assembly.

I do not want to suggest that our experience would have been less satisfactory if we had bought a French, a German, an Italian, a Japanese or a Swedish car, but the fact that we had this experience with a British car is, in my view, of the correspondence in your columns, worth mentioning.

Yours faithfully,  
N. KURTI,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Physics,  
Clarendon Laboratory,  
Oxford,  
August 1.

From Mr Hans Wolff

Sir, It seems unfortunate that you should have chosen to print, by way of underlining the virtues of foreign cars, the example given by a single reader. No doubt there are many others with similar experiences but anybody with a large circle of Continental friends will have heard many horror stories about Continental cars, like the one I heard from a Dutch friend whose German car needed a new engine after a few hundred miles and who found himself stranded in Germany because only a Dutch dealer could replace the engine under guarantee.

No, Sir, your readers may rest assured that Continental cars have found no reason for discontinuing their stocks of spare parts, that service garages do not go bankrupt for lack of repair work, and that road patrols have not been abolished for lack of roadside breakdown.

For my part, I have just exchanged my medium range British car after a trouble-free 14,000 miles for that of a friend with a healthy 40,000 miles on the clock for no other reason than that my friend was considering.

Nor is it fair to quote the price advantages of Japanese cars. That the Japanese penetration of European markets is not the result of the superiority of their products but to their Far Eastern economies is surely proved by their almost incredible feat of killing the West German photographic industry stone dead.

As to the balance of payments, the sum of small imports must amount to a colossal total. Shopping on the Continent one normally finds the goods are the products of the country but I am continually amazed at the range of imported articles in this country. It does not seem to matter whether one buys a spoon, a pen, a clock, a toaster, or a typewriter. It will be a notice saying "Made in Sweden" or "Germany" or "Austria" or wherever, and in many instances the goods really are inferior. Heaven knows why this should be so.

Yours faithfully,  
HANS WOLFF,  
New Foxley,  
Pepperingham,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,  
July 31.

From Mr M. J. Voudsen

Sir, In view of the Secretary of State for Trade's recent exhortation to buy cars of British manufacture, regardless of such considerations as quality and value for money, can we now expect a request that we stamp and post empty envelopes as a part of our national duty to bail out a sinking Post Office?

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. VOUSDEN,  
36 Oakley Street, Chelsea, SW3.

Squatters' lease

From Mrs Antony Huggill  
Sir, If the lawful squatter is usually the paragon of virtue described by your correspondents today (July 30), he deserves a more fitting title to distinguish him from his unlawful brothers. Or is he really so different from the old-fashioned tenant, occupying and renovating a landlord's property, rent-free, on a short term repairing lease? Why not call him a tenant?

Yours faithfully,  
FANNY HUGGILL,  
The River House,  
Ashton Keynes, Swindon,  
Wiltshire,  
July 30.

## Nestling in The Times

From Mr Eric Diplock  
Sir, Whilst trying out work to my office premises, workmen found a nest made by mice under the floor boards. We cleaned one corner of the newspaper and found it was an edition of *The Times* for December 8, 1875, with a report headed "President Grant's Message" by Reuter's Telegram from Washington DC.

The nest was beautifully made and it is satisfactory to think that whatever the virtue of the news, at least the mice made good use of your paper!

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC DIPLOCK,  
Lanes End House,  
15 Prince Albert Street,  
Brighton,  
July 31.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**RUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
August 2: The Prince of Wales travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight to the University of Cambridge today.

This afternoon, his Royal Highness received a Master of Arts Degree of Trinity College, Cambridge.

August 3: The Duke of Edinburgh embarked in the Yacht Britannia at Cowes today.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrates her birthday today.

### Birthdays today

Mr Paul Reid, 74; Sir George Gubbins, 67; Air Marshal Sir Victor Groom, 77; General Sir Reginald Hewitson, 67; Lord Hewlett, 52; Sir Robert Gifford, 67; Professor E. E. Rich, 71; Sir Frederick Tynan, 86; Sir Thomas Wedderburn, 71; the Rev Dr R. D. Whitehorn, 84.

### Today's engagements

The Queen visits The Blues and Royals, Combermere Barracks, Windsor, 11.30 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. Salutes fired for the Birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother by the Royal Household, Royal Horse Artillery, Hyde Park, 12. One Squadron Honourable Artillery Company, Yorkshire.

Exhibition: Ben Nicholson—The Graphic Art, Victoria and Albert Museum, 10.5 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. Exhibition of English Toy Theatres, Pollock's Toy Museum, 30a Street, Bloomsbury, 10.5 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. Children's Books of the Year Exhibition, National Book League, Albemarle Street, Bloomsbury, 10.5 a.m. to 5.15 p.m.

### Marriages

Mr R. J. M. Underley and Miss S. A. Ward

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's Church, Kent, of Mr Rupert Underley, eldest son of the Hon Hugo and Mrs Underley, of Stable Cottage, Ramhurst Manor, near Tonbridge, Kent, and Miss Sarah Ward, of Cromwell Cottage, Hemmings, near Newbury, Berkshire, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John D. Ward. The Rev Nicolas Sneyd officiated. The bride was given in marriage by the Hon Hugo Underley.

Lieutenant T. W. Kyle, RN, and Miss J. G. Wignall

The marriage took place on Saturday at All Saints', Trull, Somerset, of Lieutenant Timothy Kyle, youngest son of Air Chief Marshal Sir Victor Kyle and Lady Kyle, of Kingswood, Tipton, Levensham, Hampshire, and Miss Jane Wignall, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. Wignall, of Kingswood, Tipton, Levensham, Hampshire, and Miss Jane Wignall, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. Wignall, of Kingswood, Tipton, Levensham, Hampshire.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Malta.

Lieutenant A. J. M. Hogg, RN, and Miss A. J. Taylor

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## Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. G. Auchinleck-Smith and Miss F. M. Corack  
The engagement is announced between Robert Auchinleck-Smith, younger son of Mr and Mrs Smith, of Wimbledon, and Fiona Corack, elder daughter of Major-General A. R. Corack, of OBE, and Mrs Corack, of Putney Hill, London.

Mr J. R. Ferguson and Miss B. R. Hoskin  
The engagement is announced between John Ferguson, eldest son of the late David Ferguson and of Mrs Ferguson, of Edinburgh, and Miss B. R. Hoskin, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Hoskin, of Hawera, New Zealand.

Mr A. R. Fitzherbert and Miss A. C. Freigh  
The engagement is announced between Anthony Ralph, second son of Mr and Mrs C. Fitzherbert, of the Red House, Somers, Derbyshire, and Anne Chamberlain, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. M. Freigh, of McLean, Victoria, United States.

The marriage will take place in Virginia in September.

Mr J. R. B. Garrett and Miss A. M. Goffe  
The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place shortly between Bruce, son of Mr and Mrs H. F. Garrett, of 10 Courthouse Road, Wimbledon, and Allison Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Goffe, of White Cottage, Warboys Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey.

Mr J. P. McDowell and Miss S. M. R. Green  
The engagement is announced between John Patrick, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. P. McDowell, of Christchurch, New Zealand, and Sally Miranda Ruth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Green, of Bridlington, Yorkshire.

Mr D. R. L. Rens and Miss J. M. Hearn

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place shortly between David, son of Mr and Mrs D. R. L. Rens, of Haymarket, London, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Hearn, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Liagenny, of Lieutenant Anthony Hogg, elder son of Vice-Admiral Sir Ian and Lady Hogg, of the Old Mill, Weymouth, Dorset, and Miss Christine Liagenny, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Liagenny, of Tyn-y-fro, Liagenny, Crickbovell, Powys. The Rev J. M. Evans and the Rev D. G. Richards took part in the service.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of white tulle with a full lining, trimmed with lace. Her Brussels lace veil was held in place by a headpiece of white tulle and a bouquet of white roses, sweet peas, cornflowers and delphiniums. She was attended by Mark and Lisa Elton, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Elton, of Llangenny, and Miss Lorraine Taylor and Miss Lois Taylor. Mr Jeremy Hogg was best man and a guard of honour was formed by naval officers.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Malta.

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Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who celebrates her seventy-fifth birthday today, with the Prince of Wales and Prince Andrew at The Royal Lodge, Windsor.

## Classical Congress at Oxford told that 'the Oscar Wilde of elegiacs' was in fact a serious artist

From Philip Howard

Oxford  
It is a pity about Ovid. The Oscar Wilde of elegiacs, who produced brilliant, witty, cynical poetry about love and marriage, went to pieces like Oscar after he was banished from Rome in the wake of some political scandal in the place. From his exile at Tomi on the Black Sea he turned out maudlin, grovelling verse that is a disgrace to his pen. That simplistic and conventional classroom view of Ovid was powerfully challenged by Professor Edward Kenney, of Cambridge University, in a paper to the Classical Congress on Saturday. He argued that Ovid was a serious artist, wholly devoted to the cause of poetry. Far from being, as critics have suggested, untrue to the soul of poetry, he kept faith with it in the end of his life. In the *Amores* he set out to show that something could still be made out of a genre

that seemed to be at its last gasp, and succeeded beyond all expectation. The originality and professionalism of that debut was sustained in his subsequent work. In all his subsequent work, he went to pieces like Oscar after he was banished from Rome in the wake of some political scandal in the place. From his exile at Tomi on the Black Sea he turned out maudlin, grovelling verse that is a disgrace to his pen. That simplistic and conventional classroom view of Ovid was powerfully challenged by Professor Edward Kenney, of Cambridge University, in a paper to the Classical Congress on Saturday. He argued that Ovid was a serious artist, wholly devoted to the cause of poetry. Far from being, as critics have suggested, untrue to the soul of poetry, he kept faith with it in the end of his life. In the *Amores* he set out to show that something could still be made out of a genre

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Museum, offered some new thoughts on why Ovid was so successful, and when. The date of the earliest coins, which he produced, was the time of Augustus, 50 to 54 B.C. Dr Price questioned the logic of assigning the date of the earliest coins to the time of Augustus, and suggested that each phase should be dated separately, but that they were preparatory to the main work, which was a maximum of 30 years. This would bring down the date of the earliest coins by some 30 or 40 years, to the end of the seventh century.

Dr Price rejected previous views on the reasons for the introduction of coins. He suggested that in the first instance they were intended as a medium through which transactions could be standardised. One of their first assignments was to be a currency. The second was to be a currency. The third was to be a currency. The fourth was to be a currency. The fifth was to be a currency. The sixth was to be a currency. The seventh was to be a currency. The eighth was to be a currency. The ninth was to be a currency. The tenth was to be a currency. The eleventh was to be a currency. The twelfth was to be a currency. The thirteenth was to be a currency. The fourteenth was to be a currency. The fifteenth was to be a currency. The sixteenth was to be a currency. The seventeenth was to be a currency. The eighteenth was to be a currency. The nineteenth was to be a currency. The twentieth was to be a currency. The twenty-first was to be a currency. The twenty-second was to be a currency. 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# Frozen foods

a Special Report

## £800m industry brings convenience into three million kitchens

by Graham Kemp

At the end of August, the frozen food industry will have packed and stored over 400 million packets of peas and beans—enough to keep the shopkeepers' shelves stocked for the next 12 months. In one factory in Great Yarmouth, the food freezing started years ago (almost in the 1950s), they will freeze in 24 hours as much as they did in the whole of the 1950s.

The difference in scale is the difference in the mechanization of the industry. Even the smallest of the frozen food factories now employ more than 100 people. In the 1950s, the industry was a collection of small, family-run businesses. Today, it is a major industry with a turnover of £800m.

The industry celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. It was in 1955 that the first frozen food factory was built in Great Yarmouth. Since then, the industry has grown rapidly. In 1974, the industry produced 129,000 tons of frozen food, a 100 per cent increase on 1955. More than 28 per cent of all the white fish landed in Britain is now frozen and another 61,000 tons is imported.

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## Look who's at the centre of the freezing business.

When a freezer owner goes shopping, Alcan is the sign she looks for. Alcan manufacture and market the widest range of branded freezer wrapping products to help her keep food fresh. Bags, wrap, foil, trays, dishes. A complete range in a variety of sizes.

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Keep it all wrapped up.

Many people in the food industry expect a big reduction of labour in the next 12 months but there may be too little cash available for the mechanization that will then be needed.

The problem—by no means peculiar to frozen food companies—has led to considerable pruning and to the elimination of products which offer inadequate cash margins. It has also led to renewed activity in sectors of the market previously neglected in favour of more glamorous and profitable mainstream opportunities in supermarkets and freezer centres.

For pubs and quick snack restaurants, now enjoying a resurgence of business as customers forgo more expensive lunches, the frozen food companies have developed multi-portion foil containers in which the food—steak and kidney pie, for example, or cottage pie—is ready for heating.

Schools and hospitals are experimenting with frozen food systems, successfully pioneered in Leeds and Liverpool. And there is a massive business now in factory and office canteens where the food is generally subsidised.

Other producers have sought new business in packaging frozen foods for the retailer's own brands, but this is a comparatively small sector of the market compared with the United States. Americans still eat five times as much frozen food as the average Englishman and we are behind Sweden, Denmark

and Australia in consumption. Nevertheless, we are the largest producers of frozen food in Europe. And the complex service industry of cold stores, refrigerated vehicles, production plants and store refrigeration gives us what is certainly the most efficient frozen food industry outside the United States. Some chauvinists would argue that it is more efficient than the American industry because we were able to profit from their earlier mistakes.

As these industries develop, pressure on world supplies of basic raw materials is bound to increase and the service industry carefully built up in Britain may have to be modified. If, for example, mine countries are chasing scarce supplies of frozen food when Iceland (and perhaps Norway and Canada) has drawn 200-mile limits through grounds once fished by British trawlers, then production plants on the Humber and other east coast ports could be at a disadvantage.

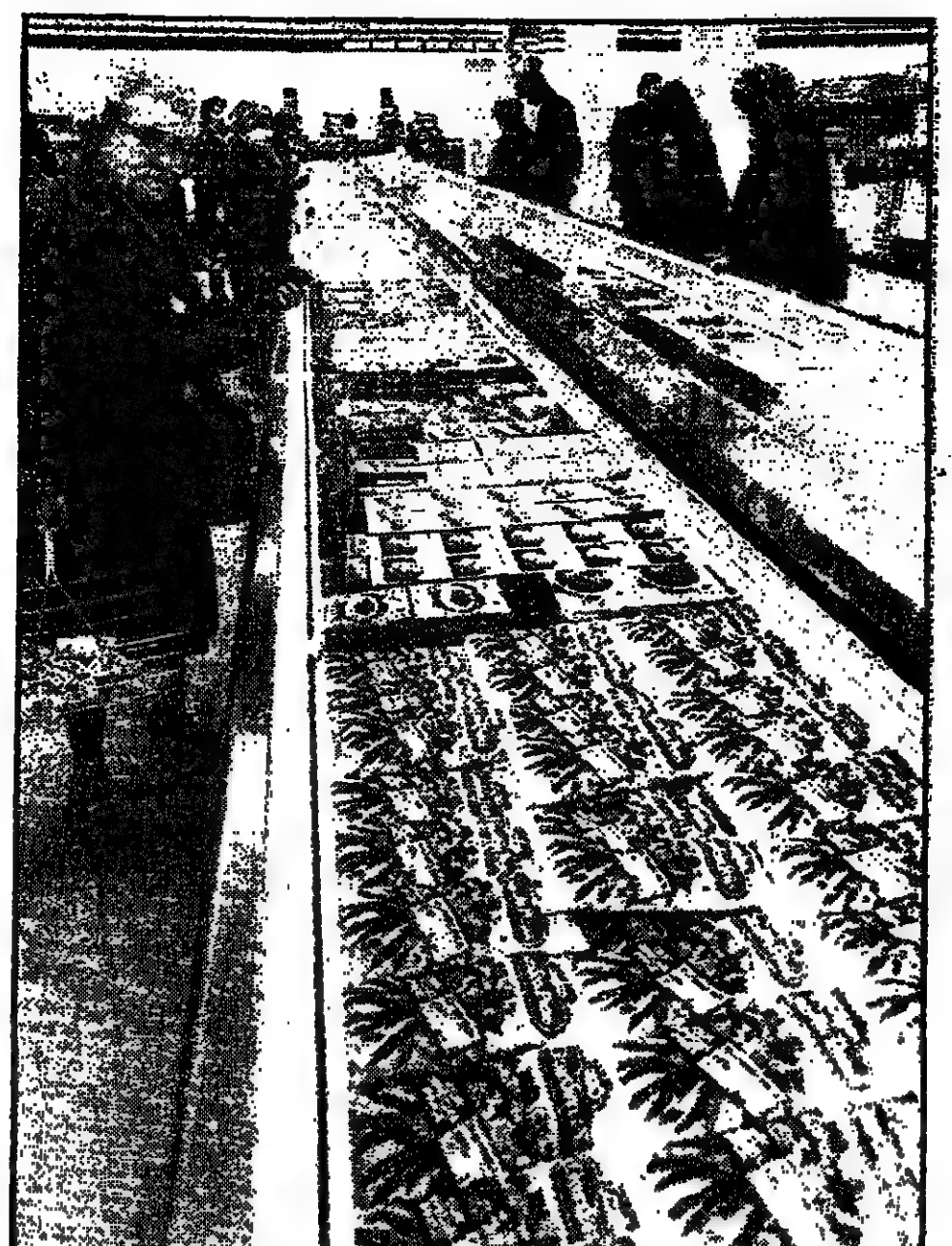
This is no longer an industry of small account in the international currency of food. The price of frozen cod in Boston, Massachusetts can disturb the profitability of the trawling industry in Britain. The price of wheat can influence the price of frozen peas and other vegetables. The cost of North American soyas can lift the price of annual feed and disturb the price of beef required for beefburger and sliced meats. The links in this cold chain are now international.

Slow start by local producers

The British housewife needed convincing that a refrigerator is essential. In the kitchen and the struggle to obtain the present day acceptance rate of 85 per cent has taken half a century. Such a demonstration of caution makes it all the more remarkable that 18 per cent of British homes now contain freezers despite their being almost unheard of seven years ago.

At that time the annual sale of freezers fell short of the total number of British manufactured refrigerators sold on the home market during a 10-day period last April. The domestic freezer boom began in 1969 and sales reached a peak in 1973 when more than 800,000 were sold. Despite inflation and the imposition of 25 per cent value-added tax, sales this year are expected to be as high as 700,000.

continued on next page



If all the peas Ross freeze in a year came from the same pod, the pod would reach the moon and come half way back again.

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Retailers and Caterers.



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Home freezers have begun to help to bring about radical changes in shopping, which in turn have affected the type, siting and layout of shops. The freezer centre is one example of this change: another is the emergence of the cash-and-carry warehouse with its large frozen food department offering a wide variety to caterers and small retailers prepared to collect their own orders.

A recent NOP survey among 500 housewives revealed that three quarters still do their main shopping once a week. But 4 per cent had only one main shopping outing a month.

The signs point clearly towards less frequent but faster main shopping expeditions, although most British housewives still find it necessary to supplement their main shopping by visiting on average three other types of shop each week.

Retailers recognized years ago that convenience, combined with value for money was the formula for success. Hence the arrival of super markets. More recently the growing reliance on the car in the main shopping trip—the average weight of a modern family's weekly shopping is 120lb—has accelerated the development of "one-stop" shopping. Research by the Gordon Simmons research company confirms that the car-borne shopper is of growing importance.

Statistics supplied by the company show that expenditure at grocers and food departments by car shoppers stood at 24 per cent in 1970 but had risen to 32 per cent by last year.

Today 150 stores fall within the "superstore" category, offering food and a wide range of other goods such as furniture and clothing all under one roof at discount prices. That type of store is usually willing and able to plan for above average sales of frozen food.

Big superstore operators, such as ASDA and Carrefour, have acknowledged the increasing demand for convenience foods, especially frozen food, and have installed long runs of refrigerated display cabinets. It seems to have paid off.

At Carrefour's Caspberry superstore, frozen food, excluding meat and poultry, now accounts for 4 per cent of total sales and 8 per cent of food sales. All ASDA's stores have frozen food sections and refrigeration footage averages 92 linear feet in each store, which includes ice cream but not meat. Some of the new ASDA stores have doubled their space allocation for frozen foods.

Confidence in the long-term future of frozen foods

## Big investments reflect confidence in future

by David Cox



After careful washing and grading, peas are closely inspected as part of a rigorous quality control system.

is confirmed by the capital sums being invested by the large multiple groups. Tesco, for instance, is investing £1m in refrigeration development and most of the other groups have increased refrigeration in existing stores or in newly converted freezer centres.

Frozen food producers remain reasonably cheerful in spite of the economic gloom. It is estimated that one in five homes will have a freezer by the end of 1975.

Increased home freezer ownership has resulted in a change in eating as well as shopping habits for a fairly large sector of the British public. A thousand freezer centres have opened in recent years to cope with this demand.

In a recent NOP survey for Birds Eye it was shown that 72 per cent of the 500 house-

wives sampled bought most of their food at a large supermarket: 18 per cent used a small supermarket while 7 per cent were buying at either a superstore or hypermarket.

The trend is confirmed by the Gordon Simmons grocery trade index which indicates a clear movement away from counter service, down from 20 per cent in 1970 to 9 per cent in 1974, towards self-service, up from 72 per cent to 78 per cent in the same period.

But while suburban superstores seem to answer the shopping requirements of young housewives there are indications that their arrival has caused an imbalance in retail distribution which is quickly being exploited by the fast growing cash-and-carry operators.

Last year's Nielsen annual review revealed that as many as 50,000 independent and voluntary group grocers now make weekly shopping trips to cash-and-carry wholesalers.

Rising fuel oil and labour costs have forced many suppliers to cut out small drops and reduce the number of deliveries to customers. Particularly hard hit are the frozen food companies whose dependence upon expensive refrigerated delivery vehicles means that their costs are that much higher than ordinary grocery manufacturers.

That situation has led the small independent grocer and confectionery, tobacconist and newsagent (CTN) to consider the growing number of cash-and-carry wholesalers.

Estimates vary as to the exact size of the frozen food business in cash-and-carry outlets, but extend from a conservative £12m to a more likely £15m a year, of which catering claims about 60 per cent with the remaining 40 per cent in retail packs.

What is certain is that the amount of frozen food sold through cash-and-carry is increasing rapidly. Estimates of 25 per cent a year are thought to be realistic. But as with so many other sectors of the retail trade, there is still a reluctance to install sufficient display and back-up refrigeration. Inadequate refrigeration has, in the eyes of the frozen food suppliers, been one of the main reasons for holding back even more rapid expansion in frozen food consumption.

There is still a divergence of opinion among retailers as to whether separate freezer centres attract more custom than a frozen food section within a store. But an issue that receives less publicity than it deserves is the steady advance in store refrigeration.

It is not difficult to point to antiquated store refrigeration, but there has been some progress in recent years. Back-up cold stores, which keep stocks of frozen food ready for replenishing store cabinets were almost unheard of in the sixties but are now considered essential, especially in the large newly built stores.

Different types of display cabinets are also going into service. Further developments include reflective ceilings immediately above the frozen food cabinets which reflect heat and light away from the refrigerated display cases and the use of blinds to reflect most of the radiant heat away when the store is shut overnight.

has geared itself to the new form of retailing and there is now a wide range of specialist packs on offer to freezer owners.

During the development period a special relationship formed between the customer and the freezer food store. Freezer owners were, after all, paying large sums for food of unknown origin, and became dependent on the integrity of the store. This has been a lesson learned and it can be argued that freezer owners are ahead of the field in placing less reliance on the brand image and greater emphasis on the reputation for service that multiples and freezer food centres have built for themselves.

Cash flow difficulties have caused many independent freezer food centres to close down within the past year but others are now well established. Bejam is one of the oldest, it went public a few years ago and recently celebrated the opening of its 100th store. Gordon Blech with 36 units of 3,000 to 4,000 sq ft, presenting food in 50 to 70 chest freezers, offer a similar service in the North.

Dalgety Frozen Foods have 30 outlets and a different sales policy. J. H. Dewhurst, the meat chain, has recently entered the field and, as a result of two takeovers, runs 47 centres.

The balanced move into the freezer food service by the multiple chains is bound to create keen competition. The Co-operative has 180 centres and Pine Fare, Sainsbury and Tesco are among the well-known names to have opened a few centres. But it will take time before the final policies of the multiples are established.

There is development within many supermarkets of "in-store" freezer service sections. These may be preferred — it depends on whether bulk-packing selling operations at lower prices can be seen to be acceptable to the majority of supermarket customers having to pay more because they lack the required storage facility.

## Entrée into catering

by Miles Quest

Rising food costs and wages are encouraging the hotel and catering industry to take a new look at frozen foods. Although, contrary to popular opinion, caterers have never been opposed in principle to the use of frozen foods.

Frozen vegetables have been widely accepted for many years and there are many catering outlets where the freezer is a most useful means of storing fresh, perishable foods like bread and cakes. Ice cream is, perhaps, the most popular of all sweets and pre-portioned chilled or frozen meat is used extensively throughout the catering industry.

The shift in attitude towards even greater acceptance of frozen foods, and frozen entrées in particular, has come about in the past few years and has been encouraged by cost considerations and by the nature of demand for the industry's services. The peaks and troughs of demand during the day cannot be levelled by normal methods of fresh food preparation in the kitchen. In popular and mass catering, the shortage and expense of skilled staff have created additional difficulties for the caterer wanting to prepare fresh food at the point and time of service.

In the circumstances, the caterer has to look again at food production. In most cases he now believes that frozen foods and, more important, a frozen food system will enable him to overcome the difficulties.

The greatest development in frozen foods has thus been in the industrial and welfare catering sections of the industry where, initially, the leading frozen food manufacturers have enormous opportunities to develop ranges of precooked, frozen entrées that needed only on-site reheating for service.

The advantages of the system to the caterer are obvious—the food is, of course, of high, consistent quality; the high, consistent quality; the skilled staff to rehearse and serve frozen food; and facilities and space needed in the service and production areas are considerably reduced.

The big firms like Birds Eye, Ross and Findus have become well established in catering and even Gardner Merchant, Trust Houses Forte's contract catering company, set up its own frozen food factory in the mid-1960s to service some of its contracts, as well as to supply staff food for the company's hotels.

The caterer at the more expensive end of the market has looked on these developments with some suspicion, though how much longer he can afford to take that attitude is open to question. The wide acceptance of precooked, frozen entrées by expensive restaurants is still a long way off, for they depend on the style and individuality of their food for their success.

But lower down the market, where individuality counts for rather less and value for money counts for everything, frozen entrées have been generally accepted as one way, probably the best way, of competing the rising costs facing the catering industry.

The mass caterer is tackling the difficulty in two ways. He is setting up a central production unit, buying fresh food into the unit (which is, in fact, a frozen food factory) and preparing, cooking, freezing and storing the food in the unit until it is required by the various points of service, which may be anywhere within a 20-mile radius or so. Alternatively, he is buying frozen entrées from the big manufacturers and from the many smaller, more specialized manufacturers serving the catering industry.

There are advantages to both systems. If the demand for meals is sufficiently high it is worth while for the caterer to set up a central production unit and to produce the frozen food himself.

That is what is happening in Liverpool, for example, where the city is well on its way to producing meals for all its schools in central production units and transporting them, frozen, to the schools. The system is being developed by many other local authorities, and in hospitals, industrial catering and hotels. The five-hotel Courtlands Hotel group in Bourne mouth has developed its own central food production unit.

In many other cases, the amount of frozen food needed is not sufficient to support production within the company and frozen food is bought in. That still has advantages to the caterer because, although his food costs are much higher, the savings in labour and space are considerable.

Unfortunately, the food manufacturer has been badly hit by rising costs. The constant pressure by industrial and welfare caterers to keep prices down means that, for the manufacturer, that sector of the catering market shows enormous growth potential but at very tight margins. On the other hand, the higher end of the market, which shows much less growth for the manufacturer, offers much healthier margins.

It is likely that the situation will be resolved in two ways. The cost of food will inevitably rise in industrial and welfare catering and either the consumer will have to pay more or there will have to be a larger subsidy by the company or local authority. Second, the use of frozen entrées will become more prevalent throughout the catering industry. By the end of the decade it is likely that only expensive restaurants will be ignoring frozen entrées entirely.

Will the public mind? Part of the myth of the unacceptability of frozen food has been created by the fact that in the early days it was of variable standard. The companies now serving the catering market have become more specialized, producing high-quality products at an economic price, which the public is willing to accept in a variety of situations.

For example, a new bistro in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, is so convinced that frozen foods are here to stay that it is serving its complete menu from frozen plates—and telling the customers. And Coope, the owner, is planning to extend the concept to some of its other pubs. It is a sign of the times.

The author is editor of *Catering Times*.

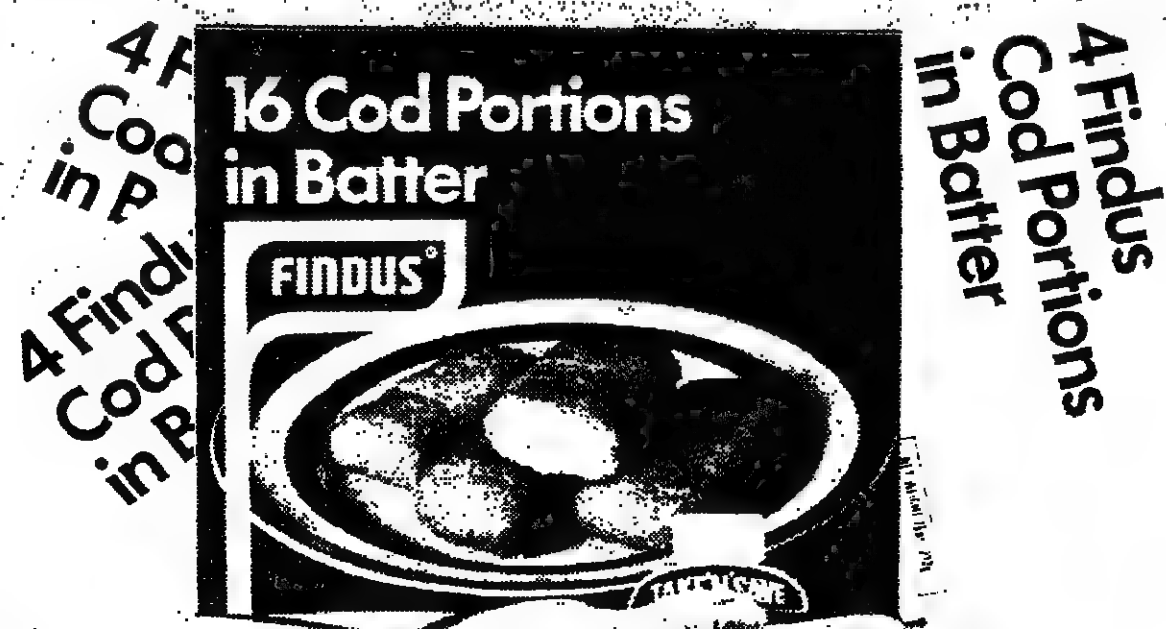
## Now Findus takes the 'bulk' out of bulk buying.

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# Centralization essential element in freezer chain

by Alan Bailey

Ever contemptuous some may seem to be of the fruits of the frozen food industry when we are trying to impress dinner guests or cheer a head waiter, and yet the craze for self-sufficiency by growing your potatoes, the industry is subtly a force for the future.

The industry has reached a level which promises well the ultimate proper distribution of the world's food sources so long as the nations can be solved. A part of the industry earned with storage and transportation showed a rate of about 25 per cent in 1974, and the forecast for 1975 will only rise because of the general economic climate.

It is the growth is not only earned with increased space and more and more vehicles; the range of the main refrigeration companies is finding into processing and packaging for leading foodstuffs and retailers.

ice is the "freezer" in Wales section of the New Institute of Transport, last year, Mr P. J. K. company and the manager, med it up like this: though frozen foods have been recognized for many years, it was not until the 1950s that Professor Plank, Germany, recognized the value of the "freezer" in the food chain.

from the time a product is frozen, to the point it is finally thawed for consumption, a continuous process is in force. This process covers the initial freezing, storage and operation in conjunction with the physical storage and transport that may be required of the product.

shows much more than a food-preserving technique if isolated from other elements of the "freezer chain".

in fact, it is reversible. The cost of freezing and other processing functions are not maintained, while a continuing economic food preservation to pay more for this form calls on industry to be a big refrigeration, in all its forms, to supply an overall concept through an entire chain of functions than the initial operation of freezing.

the chain requires the best standards at every stage of handling if the quality of the product is to be maintained.

This with the addition of the new National Freight Corporation hotel service and the development of new concepts in freezing and subsequent distribution. For example, Frigoscandia is the world's largest international operator of commercial cold storage stores and one of Europe's leading service organizations to the frozen food industry offering a complete range of storage, freezer, distribution, processing, packing and associated facilities.

As a company, it has been largely responsible for pioneering the concept of "food town" developments in Europe. This concept involves a centralized cold storage, freezing and refrigerated distribution company, processing operations to the same location to share the refrigeration and distribution services.

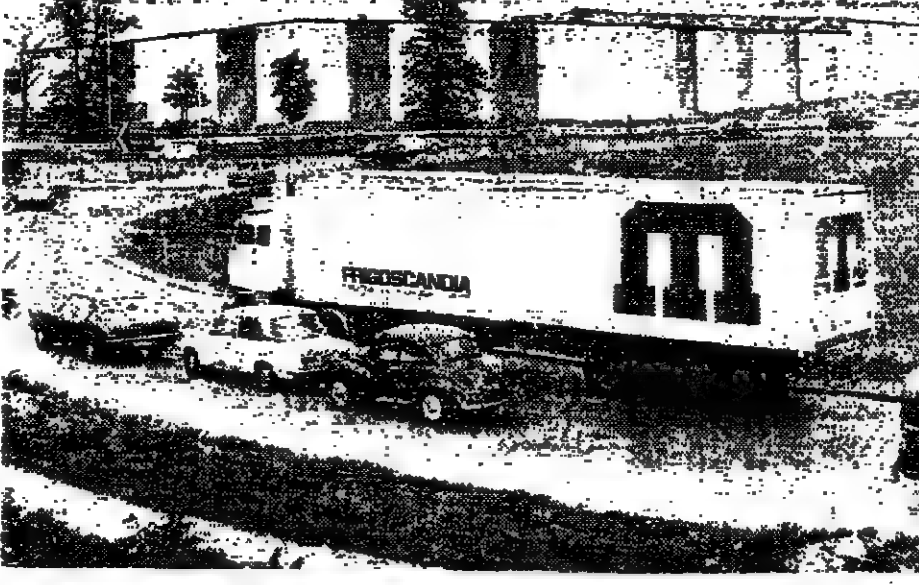
Almost half the world's in-line freezing capacity has been supplied by Frigoscandia and the group continues as a main supplier and technical innovator. This year will see the launch of a new freezer developed and refined in Sweden since 1970, capable of freezing liquid and semi-liquid products at a rate of more than a ton an hour processing them into pellet form.

The effect on the frozen food industry—and therefore on the whole question of world food supplies—could be dramatic. The first of these freezers for the United Kingdom is being installed at Frigoscandia's buildings at South Kirby, Yorkshire. During the past 15 months the group has spent £7.5m expanding its United Kingdom operations and almost doubling its British cold storage capacity.

Another of the big three, Christian Salvesen—the other is Union Cold Storage—confirmed that the cold storage companies must be more than just frozen food warehousemen. The company started in 1958 and has 40 million cu ft of the estimated 130 million cu ft of cold storage in the country.

This enormous cold storage facility apart, the company processes and freezes large quantities of green vegetables for Findus and Ross and, like other operators, respects from bulk and distributes to wholesalers, retailers and distributors through growing refrigerated transport fleets.

There seems every chance that the big three—perhaps



Right: bulk storage of frozen food at a Birds Eye depot. Top: a refrigerated truck on the way to a 2,600,000 cu ft cold store at King's Lynn, Norfolk (in background).

# Signed, sealed and delivered

by Helen Harris

The demand for convenience foods has increased rapidly in recent years. One outcome has been the endless range of products for cold storage preservation; all presenting a wide variety of problems for their packaging and handling.

There are three fundamental principles behind the packaging of any product—its protection, maintaining its quality, and providing for product identification, as well as attractiveness in the case of the consumer product. Frozen food packaging presents two additional requirements: the packaging material itself must withstand cold storage conditions without deterioration; and the packaging process must take into account the limited period of time in which the product remains in a suitable condition for packing.

Good packaging will inhibit dehydration, prevent strong flavours travelling from one food to another, and prevent moisture being drawn from other parts of the freezer and appearing as "snow" or "frost" on the product. With fresh meat, flavour and colour deterioration are additional problems caused by loss of moisture, the creation of pigments on exposure of the meat to the air, or by bacterial attack. Carelessly packed meat and poultry will also develop "freezer burn" on exposed areas, causing the tissues to become tough and spongy.

A variety of materials is used in the packaging of frozen foods to try to overcome these problems. There are four major groups—aluminium, plastic, paperboard or composite laminates. They each differ in permeability, mechanical properties and resistance to extremes of temperature.

Frozen food as a convenience product now comes in a surprising variety—vegetables, fruit, fruit juices, potato products, fish and fish products, bakery products, ice-cream, meat, game and poultry, not to mention prepared foods. Some of the most significant advances in the industry in recent years have been in the development of packaging materials for prepared or precooked frozen foods. The demand for these continues to increase as consumers become more and more convenience oriented.

Aluminium foil is one of the basic materials used with prepared frozen foods involving high temperatures either during the processing or subsequently in the consumer's kitchen. It has excellent barrier qualities offering protection from light, dehydration and odours.

One difficulty with aluminium foil has been in sealing, so that foil containers have been limited to foods that can be baked or roasted. The introduction of heat-seal coatings may encourage more widespread use of these containers, for example, for products to be boiled in the bag, particularly if the worldwide shortage of some plastic materials persists. Aluminium is obtained from bauxite, one of the most plentiful ores in the earth's crust.

But with increasing interest in the recycling of waste products, it is likely that in future significant quantities of foil containers will be re-covered and reprocessed. Other developments will be the introduction of multi-colour printed containers, perhaps even with simulated chinaware patterns to provide disposable dinner-party serving dishes. Coloured lacquering is already being used in some airline meal trays to give decorative coatings on both internal and external surfaces.

The use of plastics as a packaging material for frozen foods continues to increase. There are two basic types, rigid and flexible. Rigid plastics have so far been limited to chilled confectionery products such as mousse, which can be consumed directly from the tub or container.

Flexible plastics are now used extensively as wrapping for frozen vegetables. One disadvantage is that plastics can impart a taint to foodstuffs. Another is their inadequate temperature performance: plastics exhibit low toleration of the extremes required by freezing and reheating. A new group of methyl pentene resins is proving of interest to the industry because of the resistance of these resins to high temperatures.

The introduction of composite laminates has solved many of the problems found with materials used in isolation. Laminates of aluminium and plastic offer the excellent barrier properties of aluminium foil with the laminated plastic counteracting the physical fragility of the foil on its own. Polyethylene and polyester laminates provide the strength and barrier properties of polyesters and the heat-sealable properties of polyethylene.

Waxed paperboard was one of the earliest types of packaging material used for frozen foods. Its use for overwrapping inner plastic pouches has now largely given way to plastic/paperboard laminates with improved barrier and sealing properties. These paperboard overwraps, as well as being economical, offer the facility for advanced graphics to help merchandising, and provide for easier stacking in display cabinets or the home freezer.

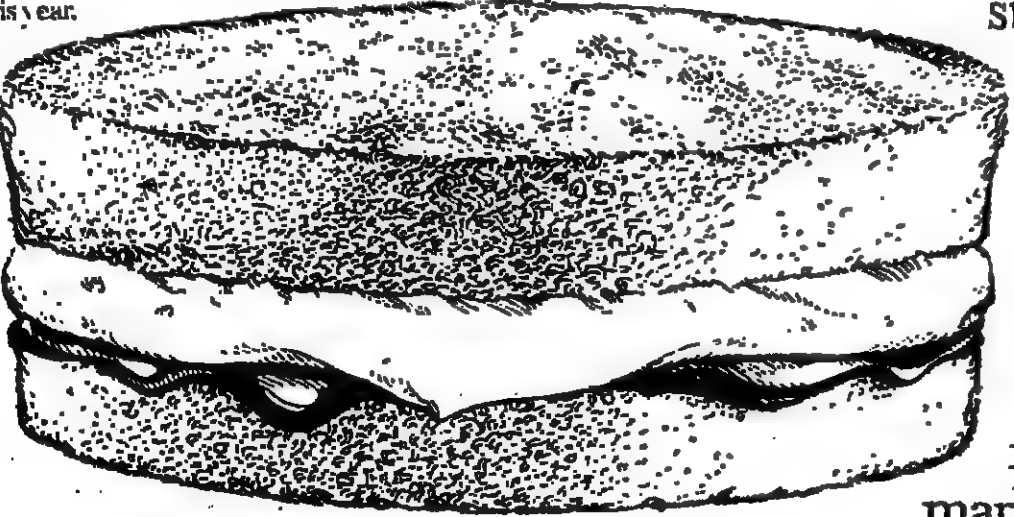
An important requirement of frozen food outer wrappings is the provision of adequate information not only for stock rotation but also recommended storage times and, as applicable, thawing times and cooking instructions. Unlike other food products, date marking of frozen foods is an inadequate form of informing the consumer of the storage life of the product.

It does not take into account the temperature at which the frozen food is stored in the home. For this reason, the British Standards Institution introduced "marking" in the 1960s. The system is based on the differing temperatures of food freezers and the frozen food storage compartments of various refrigerator models. By using star-marking producers have a simple means of telling consumers the storage requirements for maximum quality retention during frozen storage of their products.

In fresh meats, a development in which a good deal of interest is being shown, is that of vacuum packing of prime cuts. Vacuum packing reduces the likelihood of bacterial attack. It also allows total visibility of the product, which in the case of fresh meat and poultry has become more of a demand by the consumer in recent years.

Throughout the industry future developments are likely to concentrate on the functional and economic aspects of packaging with the cost-conscious consumer in mind. Excessive and difficult-to-open packaging will be avoided. More extensive use of advanced graphics will help producers to merchandise their products. Finally, increasing attention will be paid to the environmental problems of pollution and the recycling of waste materials.

# "Let them eat cake"



Marie Antoinette may have said it. But Birds Eye actually did it. Supplied the populace with lots of lovely cake.

Birds Eye Cream Sponges (Dairy and Chocolate), 12 million will be enjoyed this year alone. Which is why they are among the top five best-selling packaged cakes.

As are Birds Eye Cheesecakes—natural cream, blackcurrant and

strawberry—though they were only introduced last year. Proving there's no stopping a cake idea whose time has come.

The public are hungry for Birds Eye Cakes. So to satisfy popular demand we're putting new and different cakes on to the market all the time.

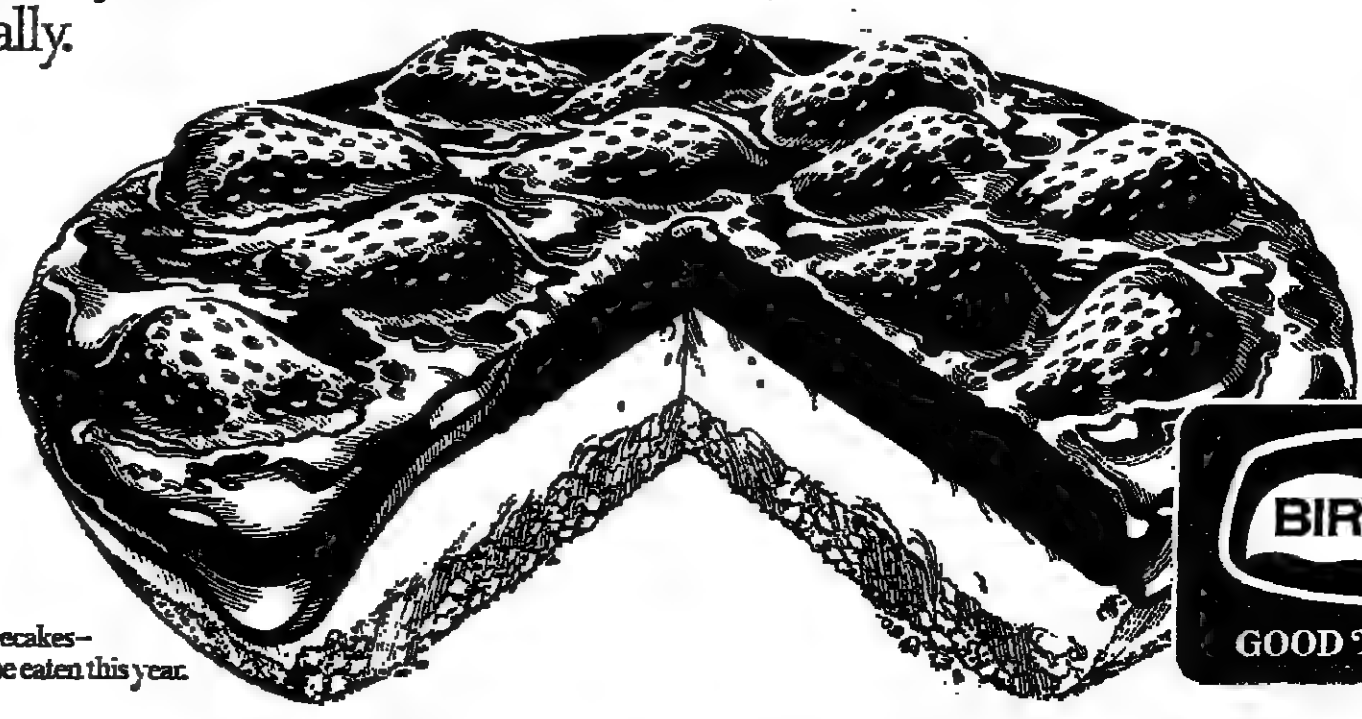
In the last two years, while the cake market overall has declined, Birds Eye's sales have risen like yeast. Today they stand at £6 million annually.

Continually getting a bigger slice of the cake market cake, as it were.

And to think cakes are only a part of what we do at Birds Eye.



Birds Eye Eclairs—4.2 million will be eaten this year



Birds Eye Cheesecakes—3.2 million will be eaten this year





§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

هكذا آمن الرسول



## Property advice nationwide

4 Strutt and Parker  
111 Strand, London WC2R 2BS, Tel 01-529 7282

# Meriden workers angry at NVT's public criticism of cooperative's prototypes

Roger Vielvoys, the Meriden motor cycle co-operative yesterday asked the troubled Norton factory to stop producing prototypes publicly, for fear of damaging the co-operative's reputation.

Mr. Vielvoys, who is one of the co-operative's directors, said that the co-operative was not a company, but a group of people who had joined together to produce a new type of motor cycle. He said that the co-operative was not a company, but a group of people who had joined together to produce a new type of motor cycle.

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Mr. Johnson replied that the two models had also been tested at the Norton factory. He said that the co-operative was not a company, but a group of people who had joined together to produce a new type of motor cycle.

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## alks sought in cutback of Innocenti

Mr. John Earle, the Innocenti plant chairman, is seeking talks with the Government to discuss the plant's future. He said that the plant was not a company, but a group of people who had joined together to produce a new type of motor cycle.

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## Varley verdict on steel plants likely this week

Mr. Peter Hill, the Varley plant chairman, is seeking talks with the Government to discuss the plant's future. He said that the plant was not a company, but a group of people who had joined together to produce a new type of motor cycle.

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## Brokers predict grim five years for Britain

Britain's economic prospects to the end of the present decade are grim, according to Phillips and Drew, the stockbroking firm. Its computer forecasts show unemployment in 1979 still at levels of around 900,000.

In its latest monthly Economic Forecasts, the brokers predict that while inflation will fall to 12 per cent in the first half of 1977, it will be back to 16 per cent by the beginning of 1979, without having come down to single figures.

A special article on the medium-term outlook also paints a dismal picture for British tourists, with the value of the pound abroad falling a further third by 1979.

The outlook is gloomy, with the value of the pound abroad falling a further third by 1979. The outlook is gloomy, with the value of the pound abroad falling a further third by 1979.

## PO Users' Council will call for economies

By Business News Staff  
Formal reaction to the proposed higher postal and telephone charges is being prepared by the Post Office Users' National Council for submission by Wednesday of this week.

Lord Peddie, chairman of POUNC, said yesterday that although the content of their report had not yet been completed, no extension to the time-limit for reaction was being sought.

The proposed increase, the second this year, would raise the charge for first-class letters to 81p and for second-class to 51p. Parcel rates would go up by 30 per cent, in addition to higher telephone charges and a cut in services, in an attempt to cut losses which last year totalled nearly £307m.

## US views clash over Russian move for more grain purchases

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Aug 3  
Russia will seek to buy between six and 16 million tonnes of grain on world markets in the coming months. Soviet purchases so far this year total a little more than 14 million tonnes.

Most of the additional purchases are expected to come from the United States, but President Ford is facing increasing pressure to limit such exports.

Senator Charles Percy has quoted highly reliable sources for the information that the Soviet harvest was unlikely to produce more than 175 million tonnes of grain.

The United States Department of Agriculture's estimates suggest the Russian crop will produce 185 million tonnes, out of the 205 million tonnes needed.

Dr. Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told congressmen recently that he was "frightened" about the possible impact on inflation of large sales of grain to Russia.

What is alarming economists is that it is increasingly clear that many estimates made by the Department of Agriculture of world grain output appear to be too optimistic.

Mr. Earl Butte, the Secretary for Agriculture, has apparently become so convinced of the accuracy of his department's estimates that he is taking every opportunity to state that even huge additional purchases here by Russia would not have a substantial impact on prices.

## Provisions by Crown Agents could top £100m

By Our Financial Staff  
Provisions against commitments in property and second-hand banking made by the Crown Agents could total over £100m, it was confirmed yesterday by Mr. John Cuckney, the organization's chairman.

This was somewhat higher than the interim assessment made last December, when the Crown Agents obtained £85m from the Government.

But there were no plans to seek any fresh government funds on account of this, or the extensive commitments in the Australian property market, before discussions with the Ministry for Overseas Development on establishing a new legal basis for the Agents later this year.

Although there had been some deterioration in the loan portfolio since Conpers & Lybrand's initial report, the 1974 accounts, expected out shortly, were expected to show that the group went into the year with reserves well short of the £37m given in the unaudited internal management accounts for 1973.

## German rights issues raise record £455m

By Peter Norman  
Bonn, Aug 3  
West Germany's public quoted companies raised a record DM2,500m (about £455m) through rights issues in the first six months of this year.

According to a survey compiled by the West German Private Banking Association, this almost matches the total for rights issues in 1973 and 1974. In those two years 111 companies called on shareholders for DM2,750m in new capital, whereas in the first six months of this year 22 companies floated rights issues netting DM2,447m.

This renaissance of the stock market as a source of finance must owe much to the upward move in share prices since the beginning of the year. Last Thursday West German shares touched a new high for 1975 and seemed to be shaking off the summer slump that has gripped most other continental stock exchanges.

The main reason for this latest upward movement is the sudden rise in the value of the dollar in the foreign exchange markets. On the Frankfurt foreign exchange market the United States currency gained nearly 2 per cent in value over the past week, being officially fixed at DM2,374 on Friday, against a closing rate of DM2,326 seven days earlier.

This boost in the dollar's value has helped the shares of major German exporting companies.

Recovery hopes dashed: Dr. Hans Friderichs, West Germany's economics minister, dashed hopes of those who are looking to Bonn to unveil a broadly-based economic recovery programme later this month. In a weekend radio broadcast, he declared that the programme when announced would concentrate on helping West Germany's ailing construction industry, stemming the rise in unemployment, and the scrapping of plant that would be expensive to replace when the economy recovers.

## £4.6m expansion at Cyanamid

A £4.6m synthetic drug manufacturing unit to be built by Cyanamid of Great Britain at its existing factory at Gosport, Hampshire, is due to come on stream late next year.

It will manufacture a range of new synthetic drugs developed by the company in the United States. These include psychotropic drugs used in the treatment of mental illness.

Lawyer appointed head of ENI  
Rome, Aug 3.—Signor Pietro Sette, a 60-year-old lawyer, was appointed yesterday to head ENI, Italy's state hydrocarbon corporation, by Signor Aldo Moro, the Prime Minister. For 13 years he has been head of EFIM, a body which administers state enterprises. He was the only candidate for the post approved by all governing political parties.—Reuter.

## NEDO chief urges continuity in planning

By Malcolm Brown  
Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, will warn the Government and both sides of industry this week that North Sea oil may not be enough to save us from further crises unless a positive effort is made to improve our trading performance and productivity growth.

He will call for a medium-term plan aimed at solving industry's recurrent problems, such as the need for new investment and improved productivity.

In a paper expressing his personal views, Sir Ronald, it is understood, says that since the late sixties the deterioration in our trading performance compared with continental competitors has been accelerating. If this continues, he says, it may soon become impossible to balance our external accounts without sacrificing employment.

## Further sharp decline in tanker tonnage

By Our Industries Correspondent  
Tanker tonnage being laid up, scrapped and new orders cancelled in July, showed a marked increase on June, as shown in the latest survey of the market published by London shipbrokers, E. A. Gibson.

At the end of the month 145 tanker orders involving 35.7 million tons deadweight had been cancelled in the world's shipyards compared with an end-June figure of 115 ships totalling 28.17 million tonnes.

The number of tankers laid up also increased still further to 461 ships totalling 35.52 million tonnes compared with 428 vessels totalling 35.82 million tonnes at the end of the previous month.

## House prices improve 'but no boom ahead'

By Margaret Stone  
There is little likelihood of new house prices repeating the 1973 trend, which saw rises of nearly 40 per cent in year, according to *Facts and Figures*, published today by the Building Societies Association.

In this edition (the third of the new quarterly) there is a detailed analysis of house values, retail prices and average earnings.

It reveals that despite the bumps of 1971-73 the relationship of house prices to incomes has been remarkably constant.

Now that house prices are nearly back to their historically "normal" relationship with earnings, houses are increasing in price more rapidly than in the recent past. However, the speculative element which forced up prices in 1972 is absent.

## Patent fees to go up again

By Adrian Hope  
Yet more patent fee increases have now been announced, before the protest of the last batch has died down. In May this year there was a virtual doubling of all official patent fees, but as from November 1 inventors will have to pay even more.

It will now cost 561 in official fees alone to launch a full patent application. This fee is of course in addition to any professional fee incurred. As it is both advisable and usual for an inventor to employ a patent agent to act on his behalf, the normal cost of filing a straightforward case must now always top £200.

It will also be more expensive to maintain a patent in force once it has been granted, because annual renewal fees are also rising again. The first and final renewal fees will respectively be £40 and £100 instead of the £30 and £84 to which so much objection was only recently raised.

## Dartmouth Investments

Sales £3,269,452—up 15%  
Pre-tax profits £240,090—up 32%

The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. D. C. Hathaway presented to the 37th Annual General Meeting held in Birmingham on 1st August:

In anticipation of the continuation in the rate of inflation and the very dangerous effects this has on corporate liquidity the unprofitable elements of the Group's turnover have been removed and cash has been released for more effective use.

The results show an increase in sales of 15 per cent, trading profit of 35 per cent and pre-tax profit of 32 per cent. An Interim Dividend of 3.77 pence has been paid and a Final Dividend of 9.78 pence is now recommended. Total dividends for the year are equivalent to 20.67 pence gross (1974-75: 16.375 pence) and is the maximum allowable.

The Directors recommend a capitalisation issue of one new ordinary share for every eight shares held. An increase in the authorised share capital is necessary to enable the capitalisation issue to take place. It will also create a margin of authorised but unissued share capital which will enable your Company to acquire other businesses for shares if the opportunity arises.

Current Year Strategy  
To increase profitable turnover combined with the substantial reduction of overheads. On this basis I would expect the record of satisfactory increased profits to continue.

Your Board are continuing to explore the possibilities of expanding the business outside of organic growth, and it is hoped that something positive will be accomplished in this direction in this current financial period.

Principal Activities  
The manufacture and marketing of products for the domestic, commercial and industrial heating, ventilation, pollution control and material handling industries, and the automotive industry.

Subsidiary Companies  
Combat Engineering • Granville Industri-Filter  
Granville Tin Plate • Dartmouth Manufacturing  
Lawton Pressings • Lawton Pallets

**Mr. William Pickles**  
reports increased turnover and profits

Year to 31st December	1974	1973
Group Turnover	18,265,139	16,103,942
Group Profit before Tax	824,770	925,089
Group Profit after Tax	487,609	521,287
Dividends Paid (Net)	77,636	72,548
Proposed Final (Net)	104,025	99,581

Extracts from the circulated statement of Mr. William Pickles (Chairman)

In December, 1974, an Interim Dividend of 0.243 pence per share was paid on the Capital as increased by the Bonus Issue in July, 1974 and this absorbed £71,476 compared with £66,388 in 1973. Your Directors are now proposing a final dividend of £104,025 net, which is the maximum permitted under present legislation.

I look to the future, and there is a great potential in the various branches of the Company. The current year has been the most difficult I can recall in my 60 years' experience but even anything like reasonable conditions in the country as a whole, there are firm grounds for believing that group stability can be maintained in the current year. This will not be an easy task, because, although sales during the first six months of 1975 are keeping pace with the same period last year, our margins are once more under attack, not only by increasing costs, but by competition from unrestricted imports of cheap made up garments. Nevertheless, by improved stock control and other economies the Group is in a strong financial position ready to exploit future opportunities.

Group Companies:  
H. Bamernan & J. W. Brooks & Sons  
Wm. C. Chapman: Richard Davies & Co.  
Glen Patricks: Harrow Fabrics (Int'l) Ltd.  
Macaneta: Sparrow, Harwick & Co.  
Lynn Sportsman

**WILLIAM PICKLES & CO. LIMITED**  
101 PORTLAND STREET, MANCHESTER M60 1EH

## Bookings disappoint the resorts

By Patricia Tisdall  
Fine weather and the start of the school holidays appear to have brought little relief to hard-pressed seaside hotel owners. While there are considerable variations between regions, bookings for many hotel and guest houses are little better than average, and the outlook for the autumn and winter months is exceptionally gloomy.

In the South, hoteliers could face serious financial trouble unless there is an increase in the bookings for September and October, according to a survey carried out by the *Catering Times*.

There were depressing reports from Bournemouth, Morecambe and Scarborough. In Cornwall bookings were estimated to be about 10 per cent down on last year.

Throughout the country there is increasing evidence of a move away from hotels and guest houses to self-service holiday homes. English Tourist Board statistics show that the trend to self-service holidays has increased during the past two years or so and accounts for 40 per cent of all holiday bookings taken by Britons in the United Kingdom, compared with 30 per cent in 1972.

There are also signs that less holiday money is being spent on fringe goods this year. Wall's ice-cream company says that although sales this year are good, they could be better. It blames high prices resulting from value-added tax.

London hotels were badly hit at the beginning of last month by the threatened rail strike. But during the past few weeks they are reporting a sudden and welcome increase in trade from foreign visitors.

In top category hotels some groups, such as Strand Hotels and Ritz, are seeing the decline in American visitors has been partly offset by the greater number of Arab guests.

Grand Metropolitan reports a growing tendency for foreign holiday makers to travel outside London to centres such as York and Salisbury. Other towns, like Brighton, have also benefited from more foreign tourist and student trade.

A spokesman for Rank's Leisure division, which has a dancing, restaurant and cinema complex in Brighton, says business is well up on last year.

Houses Forte said bookings in their hotels throughout the United Kingdom, including Ireland, were above the levels budgeted for July. "The business is there if you know how to get it."

## Hotels advised to seek more local staff

By Derek Harris  
Problems of labour turnover for hotels are largely caused by the difficulties associated with staff living in and the composition of the workforce in many hotels.

This is one conclusion of a survey by Mr. Boas Shamir, sponsored by Cornwall, Green, Bertram, Smith, the London hotel and catering consultants.

At six different hotels studied, 29 per cent of the workforce were foreigners and another 37 per cent were persons under 25.

The large number of young employees and youngsters and

foreign workers with no family responsibilities and no roots in one community are the main reason, Mr. Shamir suggests, why the industry has such a high turnover of staff. The situation is reinforced by a labour shortage that makes finding new jobs easy, he adds.

Hotels should therefore attempt to recruit more local people with stable work histories, roots in the community and family responsibilities. Living-in by staff ought to be restricted because it could lead to too much dependence and "narrow-mindedness".

Mr. Shamir adds: "Recruiting

more local staff and stabilizing the living-in staff will mean, in most cases, paying higher salaries, among other things."

He urges that managers and staff, when introducing innovations, should be involved more in decisions. Special attention should be given to the question of how to introduce convenience foods without destroying the skill and creativity of chefs.

"Managers and staff attitudes to living-in and other aspects of hotel employment, by Boas Shamir (Cornwall, Green, Bertram, Smith, 20 Kingsway, London WC2B 6LH; price on application).

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**Lending rate 11 pc**  
The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is unchanged this week at 11 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill tender:

Applications	£m	Offered	Received
2 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
3% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
3 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
4% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
4 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
5% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
5 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
6% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
6 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
7% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
7 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
8% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
8 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
9% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
9 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
10% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
10 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
11% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
11 1/2% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000
12% 12m	2,000	2,000	2,000



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Will the Government bite on Diamond?

The general response to the Diamond Commission Report No 2—dealing with "Income from Companies and its Distribution"—has generally been seen as presenting the Chancellor with a very strong case in favour of the removal of dividend controls. Not, of course, that the report makes any specific recommendations—that was not what the commission was asked to do—but it put the basic facts of the situation to the Government both clearly and bluntly.

But, as I suggested on Thursday, it is far from clear whether these arguments in themselves will prove enough to convince the Government. In that context, it seems to me that there are two main questions that the Government will need to ask. First, can there be any justification for the way in which dividend controls discriminate against certain sectors of the population? Second, are dividend controls really a means of bringing private sector companies back from expansion?

As for the first question, there seem two points worth making. The first is that there is obviously a political school of thought that is only too delighted that there should be discrimination against certain sectors of the population. To the extent that this is based on a wish to rid of capitalism one is obviously moving into a much broader, more general argument. But to the extent that it merely reflects a feeling that dividends go largely to a select band of relatively well-off individuals, it is clearly disproved by the evidence of the report. This points out that less than half the country's workforce are in occupational pension schemes, that these funds look to dividend income as a major source of income and are taking a steadily increasing slice of the dividend cake.

The second point concerns what is, in effect, the economic justification for discrimination. The report states that enforced retentions in companies would lead to a more efficient use of resources than letting dividends be paid out and reallocated by the investor. On the question of the profitable use of funds, the commission says that it was unable to prove the case one way or the other. It preferred the view that the efficient, whether shareholder or management, makes efficient use of funds while the inefficient might squander them.

But even if it were proved that earnings are used more efficiently when retained in a company, there is nothing to make one believe either that the increase in net asset value arising from retention would be reflected in share prices, or that equity finance would be made available without a progressively increasing stream of income—a stream of income that could not be obtained simply by relying on regular realizations and consistent capital profits.

The second question mentioned concerns whether or not dividend control is proving positively damaging to the financing of the private sector. As with the first question, this is also a question on which those in favour of controls can put up a case. That case, in short, suggests that so long as control offers a "reasonable" ceiling, it will not affect large numbers of companies and, second, that it is simply a question of raising a new finance, a company already has the facility to request Treasury permission for an increase above the existing ceiling.

The answers here must be that any "reasonable" ceiling cannot be easily determined, that controls discriminate in an undesirable way against growth companies, and that the removal of controls would lead to higher security values in the longer (though probably



Mr D. Meierthagen, chairman of Royal Insurance: joining the rights queue?

were compelling industrial reasons for going into RFD in the first place, notably the complementary nature of RFD's world-famous inflatable life rafts and rescue craft to Avon's own inflatable products which go largely to the leisure market. And there seems no reason to suppose that the industrial logic has since changed, albeit that other aspects of any link-up no longer look quite the same.

## Composite insurance

### Protecting the solvency margin

Since Commercial Union reopened the rights issue market, it has followed much more recently by three more composite insurance groups, Guardian Royal Exchange, Sun Alliance and London, and then Phoenix, the stock market has been waiting for the other shoe to fall, or the other three shoes to be precise. Eagle Star, General Accident, and Royal have not yet raised new equity this time round.

Further issues in the near future are a "strong possibility", suggests W. Greenwell in a new analysis of the composite sector, and goes on to argue the case for more rights issues may be necessary (even by those companies which have already come into the market) as premium income rises with the underwriting recovery over the next three years.

The groups with the strongest margins of free reserves (shareholders' funds) to non-life premiums—the biggest solvency margins—are, not surprisingly, the recent rights candidates, GRE, Phoenix and Sun, for whom Greenwell has computed profit rights solvency margins of 50, 62 and 62 per cent respectively against an estimated figure of 42 per cent for CU, Eagle Star 40, GA 38, and Royal 40 per cent.

The composition of the assets backing the solvency margin is obviously important and it is perhaps no surprise that those companies that have already come into the market for funding this year, GA, Phoenix and Sun, all have the highest proportion of "equity type" assets (i.e. ordinary shares and property) in their total distribution of investments among the seven composites. GRE's proportion is based on market values against book values in the other cases however. General Accident has the lowest proportion, with correspondingly the highest proportion of fixed interest securities. This obviously has to be seen in the context of recent equity and gilt market movements.

Allowing for rights issues so far, free reserves as of July would be £1,300m for the composite sector in total, or some 40 per cent of estimated 1975 premiums, assuming that premium increase by about 15 per cent over the 1974 volume. This assumption of premium growth by Greenwell is about on line with that by WM. If premiums continue to rise by around 15 per cent a year (as seems quite likely), free reserves would need to be raised around £2,000m by 1978 to maintain a 40 per cent solvency margin, Greenwell says.

Admittedly 40 per cent would be more than twice even the new legal minima but companies rarely feel comfortable below this level. Supposing profits recover and retentions amount to £350m between now and 1978 that would leave appreciation in investments to make up the further £350m of required free reserves. This is possible though it presupposes markets stabilizing at higher levels than at present. Further rights issues are the alternative and they do present problems of earnings dilution, adds Greenwell. The logic behind this is that rights issue proceeds cannot be invested short-term to yield a return, as the average present 131 per cent historic return on free reserves.

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The problems of British Rail mean it is certain that the £100m of special payments will turn out to be misleading for 1975-76. Even excluding the railways, it requires a £100m of special payments to meet their latest estimates and the electricity industry will break even.

In both these cases, demand forecasting has become a tricky affair—high prices have already disrupted mail and telephone traffic, and revision of electricity tariffs has led to a new load forecast and doing without a few new power stations, plus mothballing a clutch of old coal stations.

Forecasting is also hazardous for other reasons. Some State industries are dependent on others, in part, for their financing. If postal business or steel freight falls, then British Rail's revenues suffer. If coal prices fall, then the electricity industry's fuel bills suffer. And so on.

What is common these days is the atmosphere of crisis. Even the Government, claiming to be against interference in the private sector, is now being accused of meddling in the operations of the Post Office, British Steel, British Rail.

For his part, the Prime Minister has frozen rises in top salaries awarded last December by Lord Boyle's review body, causing resentment because this is not the first time it has happened and some board members are now paid less than men reporting to them at executive level.

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Essential public undertakings, many of which make a strategic contribution to Britain's industrial base, are now having to review deeply their forward plans in a highly inflationary situation.

The British Steel Corporation is presently struggling to obtain government support for further rationalization, delayed by the plant closure review imposed by Mr Benn.

The Post Office is taking a deep look at telecommunications investment, with higher tariffs, and a higher telephone demand has begun to change rapidly.

The electricity supply industry

is facing an official review of its structure and the power station ordering programme is presently frozen as a result of new thoughts about future demand patterns. The energy crisis has hit British Airways hard, but capital programmes have to move.

All these and other difficulties have been well documented in recent weeks and need no repetition. But what will add to the pressure is the Treasury decision to monitor borrowings more closely, apply each limit to wages, and to stop compensation payments for deficits.

The financial consequences are enough for the State industries to be driven into a substantial shake-out of manpower, the end of which will be more realistically identified by price rises and demand restraints.

In such a situation, services will be cut, some even savaged. Some services do not pay their way, and these need to be better identified if the Government feels they should be retained because they have social or industrial significance.

State chairmen want it this way, so they can then resume their task of aiming at profit targets on those areas of their business where surpluses ought to be properly earned for the sake of good management discipline and staff morale.

The Government's duty now—and the State chairmen have been to see Mr Wilson on a number of occasions to detail their cost-cutting strategies for the future—is to follow up its pledge to end artificial pricing by a new statement of how far each public undertaking can expect more freedom of action.

A new White Paper on financial obligations is overdue, and this, when it eventually appears, has to discuss the criteria for judging their future performance.

New profit yardsticks, which allow for clearly identified social obligations, are needed so boards can be held, fairly, to be accountable for any

is far easier for man

ability to ship when a blame government, wrongly for their trouble. There is a vital job done by our no especially when the sector is being expanded. State ownership by Leyland and the aircraft building industries. This is to rebuild confidence in the existing enterprises. Public funds to centre around there are votes in at the public sector, but has tried to win votes by recent nationalized into better shape.

In spite of the dramatic results of the years, there are some able men in charge of State-owned enterprises. Public funds to centre around there are votes in at the public sector, but has tried to win votes by recent nationalized into better shape.

In short, the lesson learned from all the ing and subsidies is a pointless one. The right of State enterprise. The argument about how to run the define reasonable obligations, who is responsible.

Low must even be noted as perpetual by. Standing as they do government and the sector, they are vital economic impact at importance as support materials and essential manufacturing in large.

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# Essential reading for industrialists

## Terry Pitt

any of these proposals, nor is there any move towards destruction of a mixed economy. The reverse is the case.

Who would have thought in 1970 that Rolls-Royce, Ferranti and British Leyland could become candidates for public ownership? Imagine the advertising campaigns if Labour had taken any of these companies in its manifesto! Yet where is the battle today? The industrial world moves fast, and few people are interested in yesterday's heresies. When management fails, for whatever reason, the shareholders clamour for their investment and the workers demand a continuation of their jobs. That is the problem for any government.

If we look back over 30 years the lesson for any Labour politician is clear. Either, as Mr Attlee did, you carry out your basic election programme, in which case you probably lose the next election because new factors arise which the party has not considered. On the other hand, you enter government as Mr Wilson did in 1964 with immense goodwill from the business community, yet fail to carry out your party's own proposals to deal with new problems.

The serious re-think of Labour's policy after 1970 was an urgent political exercise. Few industrialists helped. The programme, however, was a success at least in political terms.

Here is the crux of the book. He traces the analysis which we all suggested; he sets out our case in great detail; he tells the economic and industrial story with great eloquence. It is a good read. But he fails to see the current area of policy. First, the real programme of the Labour Party is

always its social programme. Unfortunately, issues such as housing, disablement benefit, and the reform of local democracy are not considered. Second, and fundamental to any industrial analysis, the book does not go into detail on how a British democratic socialist should regard the financial sector of the economy. For that matter, it gives no guidance on this question to industrial managers.

Whatever our political preferences, we are all getting a little sick of the similarity of the analysis of senior politicians on both front benches. Britain is still seen as the poor relation in regard to her main industrial competitors. In political terms, today we have an Opposition which seems to prefer unemployment as its major campaign, but we have a Government which is using employment as its major weapon. Plus ça change...

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# Business Diary in Europe: IRI goodbye? • Port-folio at risk

After the departure of Signor Guido Carli from the Bank of Italy and Signor Raffaele Girotti from ENI, it looks as if Professor Giuseppe Petrilli may be departing from the vast Italian state-owned corporation IRI (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale).

A 62-year-old Neapolitano, Petrilli was appointed 15 years ago to the chairmanship of IRI whose activities include everything imaginable from banking to steelmaking, or shipbuilding to electronics and ice-cream. Reminded recently by a journalist that his term of office expires in October, he said that it not reappointed he would like his successor to be Leopoldo Medugno, IRI's director general.

IRI used to be held up as a uniquely successful form of partnership between public and private industry, but in this climate of deepening recession it appears to be having its full share of troubles.

It may be a reflection of these more difficult times that Professor Petrilli has chosen not to hold his customary annual press conference before the summer holidays, at which he would reply freely on any aspect of the corporation's activities.

There are indeed a number of subjects on which critics might have been tempted to ask questions. A group of rebel-



Giuseppe Petrilli: appointed chairman of IRI 15 years ago.

linus IRI officials has been circulating a 35-page document criticising the management and citing alleged deficiencies. The document maintains that executive appointments are made more on the basis of political and party criteria than of managerial competence.

Though IRI banks have been reporting substantial profits, some of the group companies are operating at a heavy loss,

notably the airline Alitalia and the motor car manufacturer Alfa Romeo.

Then there is the question, under investigation by a Milan magistrate, of whether secret supplementary interest rates were paid by one of the Sindona group to individuals from a deposit account placed by IRI's engineering holding company Finmeccanica.

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# Brickhouse Dudley

## Substantial growth

“The year under review has been extremely satisfactory. This is a result of our policy of expansion in both the Merchanting and Foundry Divisions.

Up to the present all our foundries have been working full time on an extremely short order book. There is every indication of an upturn in the Building and Civil Engineering Industry and if this pattern continues profits for the current six months could be well in line with those of the comparable period of last year.”

J. GOODRIDGE  
Chairman and Managing Director

Year to 31st March	1975	1974	1973
Sales	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000
Profit before tax	13,010	8,228	4,621
Profit after tax	1,501	1,159	841
Ordinary dividend*	472	552	471
Earnings per share	2.66p	2.36p	2.25p
*gross equivalent	4.48p	4.05p	4.08p



Manufacturers and distributor of a complete range of road and inspection manhole covers and frames, gully grates, steel ducting, engineering, heating and building castings, drainage and water pipes.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Ungraceful handling of the Nation Life affair

Mr C. M. R. Woodley

Mr E. F. Rigland, chairman of the British Insurance Association (July 31), rejects as unfair comments by Mr. Justice Goffman on the insurance industry's handling of the Nation Life affair. Such a reprimand of the industry's domestic responsibility can only add to the resentment of the ordinary men and women whose savings remain trapped. Over a year the industry has been in the Government's attempt to extricate the company from the wreckage. The policyholders are being excavated by old and ill-served legal very at a time when they are in urgency and confusion. The industry has been effectively turned into a black box. The response has been simply to wait out such a tragedy.

Yours faithfully,

C. M. R. WOODLEY

10 Hartwood Road,

London, W12.

## Banking and the housing bonus

From Mr J. T. C. Peters

Sir, I am sure your readers accept that a generous sprinkling of satire and sarcasm adds piquancy to a newspaper column. However, I would like to comment on your Business Diary's remarks (July 30) on "the extremely attractive terms offered to bank employees for housing finance". Banking was a profession where young men, recruited in the pre-1960s, were willing to work for many years on low salaries compared with their contemporaries in the outside commercial world. One of the items which offset acceptance of low income was the possibility of favourable housing loan rates at some future date, never mind that it could be 10 or 20 years before this dormant perk was actually available.

Thus these preferential terms for the bank employee are based on the traditional concept of not grabbing everything now but accepting a little today in the knowledge of deriving benefit tomorrow.

Perhaps we have reached a stage where we criticize presentation of a loyal servant's long service gold watch merely because we do not possess one ourselves.

Yours sincerely,

J. T. C. PETERS,

30 Naylor Road,

Whetstone,

London, N20.

## Skegness braced for the post-seasonal winds of recession

## Industry in the Regions

Skegness, isolated on Lincolnshire's east coast, has for years lived up to its holiday poster promise of being so bracing for the seasonal holidaymakers from the Midlands and north of England towns. But that seasonal trade has never really been quite enough to brace the local economy, especially in hard times.

Now the 11,400 population resort, which stands at low tide even almost as extensive as the eye-beckoning distances of largely rural Lincolnshire itself, has just finished watching the death agonies of its largest year-round employer.

The Rank Organisation, which in 1962 took over and developed an old Murphy electronics factory at Skegness, originally established 10 years before that, has left after phasing out over six months' work for nearly 400 people.

Ranks had been more than content with the quality of the workforce, largely women, although the town's gearing to the holiday trade had—until the recession—scrapped their plans—made them look elsewhere for an expansion to electronics production.

The busy, high-season air of Skegness over the weekend masked what is already a worrying situation for the town. This month the unemployment rate climbed to 5.5 per cent compared with the county average of 4.6 per cent.

That for Skegness was more than double its July figure of last year. The economic activity rate had dropped to 34.8 per cent compared with the county's 37 per cent.

In the county town of Lincoln, still thickly pretty busy with its many energy-oriented engineering concerns, the economic activity rate is 42 per cent.

Although Lincolnshire's unemployment figures almost parallel the national average, the localized percentage of jobless varies widely, from the 2.6 per cent of Spalding (where Geest, the banana people, have a large complex) to the 6.3 per cent of virtually non-industrial Mablethorpe.

But autumn will be the real testing time for resorts like Skegness when the last of the holiday visitors has come and gone. Last November the town's jobless rate stood at 6.8 per cent.

The most optimistic estimate locally for this November is 10 per cent are some are gloomily contemplating a figure nearer 15 per cent. This is because other local industry, such as caravan manufacture and textiles, is in sectors almost as much threatened with recession as electronics.

Winding up of the Rank operation leaves a factory leasing problem in the air-tray of Mr. John Barker, director of housing and estates for the East Lindsey District Council. Skegness is just inside an intermediate development area which extends across the

Number into north Lincolnshire so various incentives could help bring in alternative industry.

Mr Barker said: "Skegness is one of a number of places where there are now developed industrial estates and we have a number of inquiries on the go from new industries".

But the development area's tapering off around that point has meant that councils like East Lindsey have had to mount rescue operations to try to put extra industrial life into the east Lincolnshire hinterland where as in many other parts of the county an extraordinary number of churches in a sparsely populated countryside must tell of the gradual erosion of rural communities.

What has added significant muscle to the decision recently by the Development Commission—a national body which has been building an advisory and aid operation over 60 years—to give special attention to a number of areas in Lincolnshire. They work in conjunction with the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas whose brief is to help out in centres of population of less than 10,000 people.

COSIRA organizes the building and leasing of factories and makes loans of up to £30,000 to small incoming companies, usually at below the market rate. The Development Commission has a rolling fund of £8.5m and over the years has committed some £14m in loans.

Two larger factories and a group of four nursery factories have already gone up in Lincolnshire. Coordinating committees have been set up in a number of areas, buttressing the development efforts in East Lindsey.

The coordinating committees, and especially the local authorities, are now putting plans together for nominating centres that should have the most aid, with a view to intensive development.

Even though its population is nominally over the limit and it is within the intermediate development area, isolated Skegness obviously could be a prime candidate for expansion. Whatever path is pursued through the network of regulations something is obviously going to be needed to lend a bracing hand to the threatened coastal town.

Although that will not stop the resort, this winter at least, seeing harder times back again.

Derek Harris

## Scottish Utd slips in opening half

Having increased its net profit in calendar 1974 from £1.02m to £1.35m (and marking its fifth anniversary), Scottish United Investors slipped back in the half-year to June 30 from £235,000 to £174,000 on gross revenue steady at £1.53m against £1.5m. Tax rose slightly from £364,000 to £382,000, but interest charges climbed from £336,000 to £401,000. The interim dividend meantime is raised from the equivalent of 0.59p to 0.69p, and a total 2.21p against an adjusted 2.08p forecast.

Based on a valuation of investments on June 30, the net assets available for the ordinary shareholders of £37.2m compared with £37.3m at December 31, and equivalent to 92p (£51p) a share.

The investment currency premium at an effective rate of 71½ per cent has been added to the value of investments and to uninvested foreign currency. Of the amount added (£18.2m), some £5.21m is liable to be surrendered.

## G H Downing turnaround needs export success

Retreating in the preceding 12 months from £1.25m to £1m pre-tax, G. H. Downing & Co. sees any real hope of a substantial improvement in the present term in a concentrated export drive. Without hazarding a forecast in prevailing circumstances, small signs of an uplift are seen in the private building sector, with the company's stock market price to some extent in line with demand.

The refractories division is still operating at full capacity, while the electrical engineering side has started well. In the

export context, it has recently obtained a big order for two large generating sets from South America, though this may not be completed in the current term. A doubling of capacity is under way to enable it to handle more of this type of business.

On liquidity, the company has a large amount of money tied up in stock, but is still in a net liquid position at home, and expects remain so. The board has budgeted for capital expenditure of some £600,000 this year, and has adequate facilities arranged with its bankers.

## Plantation Hdgs

The continuous expansion of the past five years for Plantation Holdings would not be maintained this year although profits would be satisfactory. Mr S. W. Livesey, chairman, told the annual meeting. He said that in Malaysia, there are signs of a resurgence in the prices of rubber and palm oil.

## Highams' new chief

Negotiations for the proposed acquisition by the group's clothing division, mentioned in June, are not complete. Mr Alec Higham, chairman of Lancashire-based Highams, told the annual meeting. After 20 years at the helm, he is succeeded by Mr William Higham, managing director.

## Sena Sugar dividend problem

In what proved a difficult year, Sena Sugar Estates, with plantations in Mozambique, despite lower production, presented pre-tax profits soaring from £1.03m to £4.84m chiefly by virtue of negotiating the sale of exportable sugar at very enhanced prices. Meanwhile negotiations continue with the Mozambique authorities for the remittance of additional funds to London. Until these have been successfully concluded, it will not be possible to pay an ordinary dividend.

## Upturn seen at Leisure &amp; Gen

Opening the Inverness Mercury Motor Inn, Mr T. L. Porter, chairman of Leisure & General Holdings, referring to full-time accounts for the year to April, expected early next month, said they point to a "significant" improvement.

Its Scottish operations had been an important factor. Visitors in the present season show an increase of over 20 per cent on the preceding year. Encouraging reports had

## Elec Rentals regain VAT loss

Electricity Rentals suffered a small loss of subscribers in

## Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield
Albion 7 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 6 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 8 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 7 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 9 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 8 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 10 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 9 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 11 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 10 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 12 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 11 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 13 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 12 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 14 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 13 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 15 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 14 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 16 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 15 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 17 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 16 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 18 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 17 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 19 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 18 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 20 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 19 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 21 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 20 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 22 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 21 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 23 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 22 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 24 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 23 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 25 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 24 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 26 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 25 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 27 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 26 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 28 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 27 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 29 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 28 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 30 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 29 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 31 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 30 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 32 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 31 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 33 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 32 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 34 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 33 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 35 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 34 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 36 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 35 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 37 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 36 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 38 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 37 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 39 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 38 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 40 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 39 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 41 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 40 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 42 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 41 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 43 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 42 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 44 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 43 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 45 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 44 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 46 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 45 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 47 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 46 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 48 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 47 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 49 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 48 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
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Albion 52 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 51 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 53 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 52 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 54 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 53 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 55 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 54 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 56 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 55 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 57 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 56 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 58 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 57 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 59 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 58 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 60 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 59 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 61 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 60 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 62 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 61 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
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Albion 68 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 67 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 69 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 68 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 70 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 69 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 71 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 70 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 72 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 71 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 73 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 72 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 74 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 73 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 75 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 74 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 76 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 75 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 77 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 76 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 78 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 77 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 79 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 78 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 80 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 79 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 81 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 80 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 82 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 81 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 83 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 82 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 84 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 83 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 85 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 84 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 86 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 85 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 87 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 86 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 88 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 87 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 89 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 88 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 90 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 89 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 91 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 90 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 92 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 91 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 93 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 92 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 94 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 93 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 95 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 94 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 96 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 95 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 97 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 96 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 98 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 97 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 99 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 98 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2
Albion 100 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2	Chorley 99 1/2	84 1/2	8 1/2

## Business appointments

## Changes at Midland Bank Finance

Mr J. A. Cave has been elected chairman of Midland Bank Finance Corporation, the group's holding and management company responsible for related financial activities, principally instalment credit, leasing and factoring.

He succeeds Mr M. G. Wilcock, who has been elected chairman of the group's holding and management company, Midland Bank Finance Corporation, a non-executive director of the group.

Mr S. J. Porter has been made senior vice-president of the group's holding and management company, Midland Bank Finance Corporation, while Mr T. O. A. Malley and Mr A. Anderson have joined the corporation's board in a non-executive capacity as managing directors of Forward Trust and Midland Mortgage Leasing respectively, two of MBFC's major subsidiaries.

Mr Herbert Towning has relinquished the chairmanship of Scotia Investments and has resigned as a director. Mr Colvin Braun, at present deputy chairman, becomes chairman.

Mr Robert Leigh-Pemberton, previously chairman of the group's holding and management company, Midland Bank Finance Corporation, has been elected chairman of the group's holding and management company, Midland Bank Finance Corporation, while Mr T. O. A. Malley and Mr A. Anderson have joined the corporation's board in a non-executive capacity as managing directors of Forward Trust and Midland Mortgage Leasing respectively, two of MBFC's major subsidiaries.











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